

# Justification

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## Introduction

When we look at the word Justification, it would be easier for us to look firstly at the word 'Justify' and to try and find out what that word means. The word Justify has a number of different meanings, which are: to be aligned, to be in parallel with something, to defend, to give a good reason or excuse, to be made straight.

There is a very popular view taken by many writers and theologians that to be justified simply means 'one who is made righteous, by salvation, as if he or she has never sinned. This is a very simplistic and incorrect view and we will show why that theory is wrong.

Justification comes from God's grace (God's unmerited favour) Titus 3: 3-6 & Galatians 2:16. It is on the basis of faith and not by human works (Romans 3:28-30. Romans 4: 4-5). Romans 3:23-25 tells us that we all were sinners, which is confirmed by David in Psalms 51:5, until we received Jesus Christ as our personal saviour.

Not wanting to confuse matters but in Romans 3: 28 and Romans 5:1, Paul concludes that we are justified by faith. This is not a contradiction for faith is the channel by which we are justified but the source is grace (God's unmerited favour) that comes from God. Ephesians 2:8 confirms this point.

St John 3:16 & 17 spells out the divine love of God towards man. Verse 17 talks about God's reluctance to condemn the world to death. Everlasting life only comes through Jesus Christ and more importantly justification. It was absolutely necessary that Jesus Christ came and died for the sins of the world. Why?

- Death was pronounced on the world through the sins of Adam (Genesis 2:16-17 Romans 5:12)

- The nature of sin was and is inherited and ingrained in every one that was or is born on this earth (Psalms 51:5)
- Jesus brings into play God's unmerited favour and the opportunity for true justice to be given. The world has to know their possible redeemer before they are judged (John 3:16-17 & Romans 5 17-19)
- Jesus had to fulfill the prophecies of God (Isaiah 61:1-2 & St Luke 4:18)
- Jesus had to die for our sins (Isaiah 1:18-19) and more importantly had to be raised from the dead (Romans 4:22-25)

### **Does the Christian Believer play a part in being justified?**

Now that we have a little understanding of what Justification is all about, you will see that this divine act of God can only come into play when the individual has given his or her heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and has repented of their sins. Only then will this act of God be revealed in the life of the individual who has truly submitted himself or herself to God.

The individual has a part to play being justified and that is by exercising in his or her faith. Unless, the Christian Believer understands the miracle that has taken place in their lives, they will continue to operate in doubt (James 1:6-8 & St Mark 11:23-24) Even as a Christian Believer, that person will always be having an upward struggle as to whether they are truly saved.

To be frank this is the work of the enemy and it is his job to ensure that you are not sure about the new life that you now have in God through Jesus Christ. Why? The answer is that before you submitted your self to God, he had a yoke around your neck as an unbeliever. That yoke is replaced by God's yoke (Matthew 11:29-30 & but the devil is still trying to get his yoke around the necks of Believers. This is through their unbelief.

### **What are the effects of Justification?**

- It brings about the forgiveness of sin (Acts 13, 38-39 & Isaiah 43:26);

- It clears the repentant individual from the guilt of sin and more importantly from the wrath of God (Romans 5:9);
- The repentant believer goes through the process of imputation. In other words, our sins are transferred on Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:5-6) and his righteousness is placed upon us (2 Corinthians 5:21 and Isaiah 53:9);
- It makes the Christian Believer holy (Romans 6 v 20-22);
- It brings peace to that new Christian believer (Romans 5:1 & St John 16: 33);
- It brings about an outward righteousness Romans 8:3-5:

## **Conclusion**

Justification is a divine act whereby our Holy God, in a judicial manner, declares a believing individual to be righteous and acceptable before Him. It is an act where the Lord Jesus Christ, on the individual accepting Jesus Christ as their personal saviour, transfers his righteousness (Uprightness before God or doing the right things before God and being fully obedient) on to that person (Psalms 32:1-2) and in turn, Christ credits or transfers the sins of that individual and places them on himself (Isaiah 53:6-9).

**God bless you**

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