

Seeing Our Justification Clearly

Romans 5:1-11

5 Truths

...regarding justification that we do well to see clearly

I. Justification by faith is a very big deal & is worthy of our diligent study.

Romans 1. “(16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God into salvation to everyone who is believing, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith...”

Romans 3:21-31 = justification

Romans 4:1-25 = justification

Romans 5:1-21 = justification

“When the article of justification has fallen, everything has fallen. Therefore it is necessary constantly to repetitiously teach and impress it, as Moses says of his Law (Deut. 6:7); for it cannot be repeatedly taught and urged enough or too much.” (*Martin Luther*)

“The article of justification must be learned diligently.” (*Martin Luther*)

II. This justification comes to us through Jesus Christ, & by faith in Him alone.

Romans 5:1. “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans. “(3:21) But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested . . . (22) even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ . . . (4:5) to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,”

A Definition: “Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He, (1) decides to think of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight.” (Wayne Grudem)

Romans 5:9. “having now been justified by His blood”

Romans 5:18. “So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.”

Romans 4:25. “He [Christ] was . . . raised for our justification.”

III. This justification brings us into a relationship with God that is characterized by peace.

Romans 5:1. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

“God does not confer the status of righteousness upon us without at the same time giving Himself to us in friendship and establishing peace between himself and us.” (*Cranfield*)

IV. This justification brings us into the permanent and unalterable experience of God’s grace.

Romans 5. “(1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand”

“Justified believers enjoy a blessing far greater than an occasional audience with the king. We are privileged to live in the temple and in the palace.” (*John Stott*)

V. This justification is intended to be a cause for daily celebration.

Romans 5. “(1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we exult in hope of the glory of God. . . . (3) we also exult in our tribulations . . . (11) we exult in God”

“When we feed on, remember, and live in accordance with our justification, it mortifies our idols and fills us with an inner joy and desire to please and resemble our Lord through obedience.” (*Timothy Keller*)

Justification is a once-and-for all occurrence, but a continuous celebration of this once-and-for-all occurrence is a key to ongoing sanctification. It is while exulting in your justification that you catch yourself being sanctified.

“Any particular flaw in our actual righteousness stems from a corresponding failure to orient ourselves toward our imputed righteousness. Sanctification happens to the degree that we ‘feed on’ or ‘orient ourselves to’ or ‘have commerce with’ the pardon, righteousness, and new status we now have in Christ imputed through faith.” (*Timothy Keller*)