

Justification Seminar - Handout

I. Justification

- A. Justification answers the legal question, how can a just God forgive guilty sinners?
- B. Romans 3:23 All people have sinned
- C. All people are subject to God's anger and deserve to die
- D. The gospel is that Jesus died in our place
- E. Justification is a two-way transaction
 - 1. Jesus is credited with our sin, and died for it
 - 2. We are credited with Jesus' righteousness
- F. We are justified when we believe the gospel
 - 1. Faith does not save us – God saves us
 - 2. Faith is trusting that God is telling the truth about all this
 - 3. Faith is not trying to earn acceptance with God, but accepting that Jesus makes us acceptable
- G. Westminster Shorter Catechism
 - 1. Q. 33. What is justification?
 - 2. A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

II. Fruit of justification

- A. Peace with God – Romans 5:1
 - 1. The ugly beauty of God's wrath against sin
 - 2. That storm of anger is over for you.
- B. Life – Romans 5:18
 - 1. The promise for sin was death
 - 2. The promise of justification is life
- C. No condemnation – Romans 8:1, 31-39
 - 1. You have the legal record of Jesus
 - 2. No sin you commit will ever change this record
 - 3. God welcomes you as well as He welcomes His Son Jesus
 - 4. Nothing can ever turn God against you
- D. Good works – Romans 8:12-13
 - 1. Good deeds do nothing to clear our guilt or make God love us more
 - 2. But good deeds are the natural and inevitable *result* of justification
- E. Peace with each other – Romans 14:1-3, 10
 - 1. If God accepts your brother, how can you reject him?
 - 2. God's acceptance is not based on his theology, his morals, his culture, etc.
 - 3. God's acceptance is based solely on the righteousness of Jesus, which your brother bears
 - 4. If God sees your brother as righteous in Jesus, you must view him the same way.

III. Recommendations

- A. If you have never believed in Jesus – now is the time to start!
- B. If you do believe in Jesus, but still feel guilty – read Romans 8 every day for a month
- C. If you are critical of other Christians – read Romans 14 every day for a month

Resources:

Westminster Confession of Faith: http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf_with_proofs/
Westminster Shorter Catechism: <http://www.reformed.org/documents/wsc/index.html>
Westminster Larger Catechism: http://www.reformed.org/documents/wlc_w_proofs/index.html
The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination; Loraine Boettner; P&R Publishing
Justified by Faith Alone; R.C. Sproul; Crossway
What is Justification by Faith Alone?; J. V. Fesko; P&R Publishing