

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Lesson 33 – August 13

Question 91: What is justification?

We often try to justify ourselves before others and before God by our own efforts, virtues, or success. Justification means that we are put right with God not because of any goodness we can achieve but by the goodness of Christ. God justifies the ungodly. We receive the grace of justification by union with Christ through faith.

Job 9:2 But how can a mortal be just before God?

Rom 3:23-25 For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Rom 3:26-28, 4:5, 5:1,9, 8:30,33

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. 27 Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. 28 So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.

Gal 2:16 Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law."

Titus 3:7

7 Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Jas 2:18-26 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." 19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even

the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. 20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. 24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. 25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

Question 92: What is sanctification?

Sanctification is God's work in us by which we grow in conformity to the image of Jesus Christ, and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. The process of sanctification is never completed in this life.

Rom 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gal 5:22 The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Phil 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own...I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Cor 6:20 For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.