Welcome to “Learning and Living the God-centered Life”

Carmel Baptist Church
The Doctrine of Justification-part 2

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2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Jesus knew no sin

In addition to what Paul has recorded here go to:

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 2:21-22 - For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Pet. 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;
1 John 3:5 - You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

Even though we know that from the writers of the NT which include, Paul, author of Hebrews, Peter and John that Jesus committed no sin.

We even have stronger evidence than that because Jesus tells us this from His own mouth
John 8:43 “Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.
John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:45 “But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.
John 8:46 “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

John 8:29 “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

Here we see Jesus as the lamb without spot or blemish
2. For our sake, He made Him to be sin
What does this mean? Well it doesn't mean that God made Jesus to be a sinner. Instead it means God officially made Jesus to be the sin bearer of our sins.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
     Each of us has turned to his own way;
     But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
     To fall on Him.

Illustration: (Leviticus 16)
The Day of Atonement where the high priest would be brought 2 goals
One of the goats would be selected to be killed and the blood would be taken into the holy of hollies and sprinkled on the mercy seat. This was to symbolize propitiation or the satisfaction of the wrath of God toward the sin of the nation of Israel
And then the high priest would take the other goat that was still alive and he would lay his hands on the goat and confess the sins of the nation of Israel. By doing so this was to symbolize the transferring of the sins of the people to the goat and then in doing so the goat took them away from the presence of the LORD in the camp and also the presence of the people. And this of course represents the way in which our sins have been laid on the Lord Jesus and He takes them away as far as the east is from the west.

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
The theological term that is used is called "penal substitution". Penal comes from the word penalty and the phrase is to indicate that Christ bore the penalty for our sins.

God made Jesus to be our sin bearer. At the cross we have a paradox of Jesus who is sinless but in His official capacity as our sin bearer all the sin of the world has been laid on Him.

He is both receiving the wrath of God to the degree that He says "My God, My God why has Thou forsaken Me" while at the same time the Father is looking and saying this is My Son in Whom I am well pleased because of His obedience to the point of death in order to pay the penalty for sin.
3. So that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

What does it mean for us to become the righteousness of God? It means that we become the righteousness of God the same way that Jesus became sin for us.

It means that God charges our sin to the account of Christ and charges the righteousness of Christ to our account.

Illustration:
Two ledger sheets, one is yours and the other one is the ledger sheet of Christ
On your ledger sheet is every thought, word, and deed that you have ever done. Keep in mind not just the bad but the good is still tainted with sin.

"the best prayer you have ever prayed has enough sin in it to condemn the whole world"

This ledger is filled with sin.

Now God takes your ledger sheet filled with sin, takes it and puts all of that sin to the account of Christ.

Now for the very first time your ledger sheet is clean!

This is what Isaiah meant when He wrote that God laid all of our iniquity on Him.
But over here we have the ledger sheet of Christ and it has 33 years of recorded perfect obedience or perfect righteousness. Christ has a right standing before God based on His perfect keeping of God's law.

And God takes the 33 years of perfect obedience on the ledger sheet of Christ and now He transfers that to your account.

And now for those today who have trusted or believed in Christ, you now stand before God not just with a clean ledger sheet (that would not get you into heaven) but with a ledger sheet that is filled with the righteousness of Christ.
And that is why this is called the great exchange.

My sin for His righteousness and that is what the gospel is all about.

How does this happen where God transfers my sin to Christ and the righteousness of Christ to me. The words "in Him"

The expression; in Him, in Christ or in the Lord is used over 150 times in the NT

This is Paul's short hand expression about our union with Christ which we is a two-fold union that is legal and living.
Legal union in which Christ is our federal head or our vassal King

There are two federal heads that we read about in Scripture. The first is Adam who was appointed by God to be the federal head or vassal king for the entire human race. And because of Adam's sin we are all condemned, and it was his disobedience that becomes our disobedience.

And Jesus becomes the second or last Adam. Because as the federal head of those who trust in Him, He then credits His righteousness to their account.

Jesus is our official representative, the in Him means for Him to be our legal representative.
JUSTIFICATION

Justification is an instantaneous act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us. In so doing He declares us to be righteous in His sight.

Justification is an act of God’s free grace, in which He pardons all our sins, accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Justification means “just as if I never sinned”
Justification means “just as if I am as righteous as Christ”
Facts about Justification

Justification refers to my status

Justification is about God's attitude toward me changing

Justification is about how God looks on me

Justification is about Christ dying for my sins on the cross

Justification has to do with my;

- Legal Standing
- Once for all time
- Entirely God's work
- Perfect in this life
- Same in all Christians
OBSERVATION #1
Justification is based on the blood of Jesus

Turn to Rom. 5:9
Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Turn to 1 John 1:7
but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

In other words when God justifies a man, He is not looking at the man. But rather God is looking at the blood of Christ.

When God justifies a man, He does not justify based on anything in the man.
A man goes to heaven on the basis of what Someone else has done. God doesn’t justify a man because he is or has become in anyway godly.

But rather we learn from **Romans 4:5**

*But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,*

Do you feel unworthy of your justification? Well if you do then you are exactly right because you in fact do not deserve it, nor have you earned it.

Everything about a man cries out against justification but God justifies on the basis the blood of Christ. This of course includes our repentance and our faith. But these are the “means of” but not “ground or cause for” justification
Augustus Toplady - “Rock of Ages”

“Not the labors of my hands, Can fulfill Thy Law’s commands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.”
When a person is justified by the blood of Jesus we can understand “how” someone with very little faith can be regarded as righteous

Illustration:

A very confident man on a weak bridge steps out the bridge collapses and he falls to his death

On the other hand another man with very little faith steps out on a strong bridge and it holds him up

Illustration:

The destroying angel at the Passover

Illustration:

James McKendrick and George Mayes
OBSERVATION #2
Justify means to declare as righteous not to make righteous

- God declares that something is true about us on the outside in relation to His law.
- God declares us to be right in the sight of His law.
- Justification is not a process that makes us good on the inside. God does that via another doctrine that we call regeneration.

Rom. 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies;
Rom. 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

What is the opposite of justify?
Answer - condemn
Question
When the judge condemns the guilty man for his crime, does the judge make that man bad on the inside?

Answer - of course NOT!

The judge is simply bring a declaration about him from the outside based on what he has done.

Therefore justification is our standing before God in terms of His law.

And now having been justified, we stand before Him as innocent based on the blood of Christ.
OBSERVATION #3
Justification has no grading by degrees

When a person is justified, that person is 100% justified right then and right there.

A person is either 100% righteous in the eyes of God’s law or a person is 100% condemned.

Illustration:
Here is a man who has 7 counts of murder against him and he is absolved of 6 of those crimes, he is still a condemned man.

James 2:10
For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.
If you have one thought, one word or one action that breaks the law of God, then you are a condemned man.
> If there is one sin that you need to pay for then you will be in hell forever, because that one sin carries an infinite offense against a God whose holiness is infinite.
> **Rom. 8:1** ¶ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

If you are a Christian then you are 100% justified in the eyes of God’s law.

The righteousness that you have is the very righteousness of Christ.

> **Phil. 3:9** and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
This doesn’t matter how you feel or even how you fail, this has everything to do with Christ.

Illustration:
The apostle Paul who knew God better than all of us in this class. And yet Paul’s justification is no greater than those of us in here, who are in Christ.

Illustration:
Son of Sam the killer who got converted while in prison. And though he did some terrible and evil things his justification is not less than any of ours.
OBSERVATION #4
Justification is both positive and negative

Rom. 4:6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:
Rom. 4:7 “BLESSSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.
Rom. 4:8 “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”

The negative side of justification is that God will not impute sin to that man.

On the positive side He reckons or imputes righteousness not on the basis of works.
It is scriptural to compare sin with a debt. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 18 the parable of the man that owed so much money. We owed millions and millions and God says the debt has been paid which brings us up to zero.

But there must be positive obedience in order that we can join Him in heaven. And that is exactly what Christ does when we get the righteousness of Christ.

**Romans 5:1-2**

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

Rom. 5:2 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.
Not only were we rebelling and fighting God but more importantly God was mad with us.

Illustration:
The criminal is running and he has his gun. The police are after him with their guns and they surround him and the criminal throws down his gun.

Now what is wrong with this picture?
The criminal throws his gun down and the police then throw their guns down.
Why don’t they do this?
Because they will hold the gun on that man until justice has been satisfied.
When it says now that we have peace with God, it is saying that God has put down His gun against us.

God is not mad at me in any way, shape or form because He sees me as fully obedient to His law.

Hope is the joyful expectation of what I know is coming. This is the positive side of justification.
OBSERVATION #5
Justification is once for all.

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

The word justified in the Greek is dikaioo, which in Romans 5:1 is in the aorist tense and the passive voice.

In other words a person doesn’t get justified and then fall under condemnation and then get justified and fall under condemnation.

Then we read in Romans 5:2
Rom. 5:2 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.

The verb stand is in the perfect/active/indicative
Therefore justification puts us in a whole new standing with God.

*Illustration #1*
A man who is unkind to his wife. He goes to work and a couple of hours later he thinks and says to himself that was sin. He then asks God to forgive Him and then calls his wife and asks for her to forgive his rudeness.
Suppose you die between the unkind words to your wife and before you repent and ask forgiveness, will you now go to hell?

This man remains in a justified state while he has sin that remains unconfessed.
Illustration #2
You get up and have an argument and know that you did wrong because you did it on purpose. And later that day you go through what you did before. If you had died between that period of time would you go to hell? Answer - No

Why are you miserable all day when you have a sin that is on purpose? Because you are a child of God.

This man is no longer a criminal that is before a judge but a child that is in the arms of his Father. Because this man has passed from the realm of sin and darkness into the realm of life and righteousness in Christ
There may be times where God may still have to discipline you as His child but this is very different from judicial punishment.

Judicial punishment is suffering that is inflicted to satisfy justice. Discipline is suffering inflicted because of love for the one that is being chastened.

If God has to take you to the wood shed then He holds your hand and carries you on the way back.

If justification was not once for all then we would have to get justified again and again after every sin we commit.

**Hebrews Chapter 10:1-17**

Now that I am justified

When I come to confess my sins I do not come as a criminal before a judge but as a child before a loving Father.
OBSERVATION #6
Justification is received by faith

Faith is not the ground but rather the instrument or the channel by which a person receives the gift of righteousness.

When someone comes to you and says “what must I do to be saved?”
If you tell them to make a decision or just ask Christ into your heart what you are doing is directing them inside.

You direct men to faith in Christ. The Bible says that we must call on Him and whoever calls on Him will be saved.

Faith is the opposite of doing something. Justifying faith realizes that all you can do is to receive the righteousness of Christ and throw yourself on the mercy of the cross.
We are not saved by faith in our faith. But rather we are saved by faith in Christ.

Faith is like the eye that can not look at itself but must look at the object.

Illustration:
John 3:14 “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
John 3:15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

Peter walking on water was fine when he looked at Christ. But when his eyes left Christ and he looked at the wind and water he started to sink.
In Summary:

- Justification is based on the blood of Jesus.
- Justify means to declare as righteous not to make righteous.
- Justification has no grading by degrees.
- Justification is both positive and negative.
- Justification is once for all.
- Justification is received by faith.