

WEEKLY CATECHISM

What is Justification?

Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners effectually called to Jesus Christ, wherein He pardons all their sins, and accepts them as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and received by faith alone.

What is Adoption?

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby all those who are justified are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

What is Sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby His elect are renewed in the whole man after the image of God,² and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

FIVE SMOOTH STONES

The Book of Acts: Antioch – A Revival Center to Reform Culture

(Acts 11:19-30)

“Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year, they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. 27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). 29 So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.”

❖ **The Primary Focus**

They preached and taught Christ crucified. They believed that salvation is by faith in Christ vs. 20, 23 (Acts 15:11,35). They didn't preach man-made ideas or philosophy. They had a gospel that was Christ-centered.

❖ **The Proven Fruit**

The result of their focus in Antioch was seen in the fruit produced in their lives. For example,

- There was Evidence of Grace (vs. 23)
- There was Great Fruitfulness (vs. 21, 24)
- They were Christ-like in Their Behavior

❖ The Prophetic Fulfillment

- The Birth of Breakthrough Believers

Our ability to build in the Spirit with the weapons of prayer and intercession is crucial for the manifestation of this new breed of disciple. Matthew 16:19 says,

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

- The Features of Breakthrough Believers

Acts 11:19-22 tells us,

"So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to

Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch."

- ▶ Sent Ahead To Pioneer

The breakthrough believers are sent ahead of others to pioneer a new move of God.

The breakthrough believers were strong pioneers who moved ahead to open up new territories for God to touch and deliver the lost.

- ▶ Moved Under Intense Pressure

The breakthrough believers at Antioch were able to move under intense pressure.

Church members must be trained to push against their own fears and limitations and realize their own potential in God. Matthew 14:22-23 says,

"And immediately He made the disciples get into the boat, and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone."

- ▶ Moved Without Compromise

Breakthrough believers retain the standards of truth they have learned.

Paul commended the Philippian Christians for "*always obeying not as in his presence only but much more in his absence*" (Philippians 2:12).

- ▶ Moved In Progressive Revelation

Breakthrough believers are able to move into present-day truths and progressive revelations because they are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Breakthrough believers submit themselves to be led by the Holy Spirit in order to break their own limitations.

- ▶ Moved Under Authority

Breakthrough believers are able to move forward under delegated authority.

Coming under the hand of God is an essential quality in being a breakthrough believers.

- ▶ Moved To Impact Society

Breakthrough believers desire to impact the city and influence the nations.

Breakthrough believers broke their personal fears, cultural limitations, and prejudices in order to reach the Gentiles in the city of Antioch.