

Sermon Discussion Questions

Resurrection And Justification – Grant Braaten
1 March 2026
Sermon Text: Romans 4:22-25

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In this week's message, **Resurrection and Justification**, Pastor Grant is taking a sledgehammer to every lie that says your standing before God depends on your performance. Through Romans 4, we go back to the foundation — the same truth that changed Abraham, that shook the Reformation, and still has the power to set you completely free. You cannot add to what Jesus has already finished - you are justified by faith. Let's dive in and find out more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to think about when you last felt compassion that drew you to someone? What came to mind? Did you ask God to grant you opportunities throughout the week to show compassion. If so, what happened?
2. What is something that resonated with you from Grant's message this week.
3. One of the things about human nature is that we have the tendency to drift into "works". We crave to try and justify our existence before God through our works. We think that if we do just a little more, we can justify ourselves before God. Have you noticed this tendency in your own life? If so, what do you do about it? How do you try to get past this tendency?
4. If we have saving faith, it will be evidence by works. Not the other way around. Works are not necessarily evidence of saving faith. How do you tackle the argument that faith without works is dead? (James 2)

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. Are you an Apple or Android type of person? Why?
2. Do you have a favorite food truck? What is it?
3. When should you use BBQ sauce? a) Never. b) While cooking. c) On the side.

5. If you are a believer, you are justified before a holy God. You have been declared righteous. This is difficult for us to accept with our tendency toward justification by works. What is the most difficult part of this concept that is the hardest for you to accept? Why, or what, makes it difficult?

6. We are not offered a hybrid version of righteousness. We need to take a sledgehammer to anything other than righteousness by faith alone. We cannot add anything. We have two paths, but we cannot take both. We are either justified by faith, or we can try to justify ourselves before a holy God through works. What should this look like in the life of a believer? What does it look like in your own life? Are the two in alignment or are you still struggling with the idea of two paths in front of you?

7. God has always justified the sinner through faith alone. It is not a new concept but is shown throughout the Old Testament. Read Gal 3:6-9. It says that the “gospel” was announced in advance to Abraham. How does this show God’s redemptive plan through faith alone has always existed and is not just a new concept after Jesus came to earth? Can you think of any other examples in the Old Testament about justification through faith alone?

8. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. How does this passage show that Abraham believed in the resurrection before there was even a precedence for the resurrection?

APPLICATION

Take some time this week to think about how you try and bring things to the table to justify your righteousness before God. If anything comes to mind, you need to take the sledgehammer and break those things off with the realization you cannot add or bring anything to justification before a holy God. How does that make you feel? Share with your group if this is something you struggle with.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

Easter At New Wine Church, 5 April at 9:00 and 11:00, Oak Park High School, 825 NE 79th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64118. Invite your friends and family to attend with you as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

FINAL THOUGHT

If there is no resurrection in your faith, it is not saving faith.