

Sermon Discussion Questions

Understanding Justification – Matt Slocum

16 June 2024

Sermon Text: Galatians 2:15-16

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20 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

This week Matt looks into what it means to be justified or in a “right standing” before God. In his message,

Understanding Justification, we see that we are justified by grace alone through faith alone by Christ alone. But are

“works” involved in our justification? Let’s dive deeper and see what it means to be justified before God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to think about temptations you have faced or are currently facing and see the way out. For past temptations, did you make the right choice and take the way out of the temptation? If dealing with a current temptation, did you look for the way out the Holy Spirit was providing and move in that direction?

2. Is there anything that really stood out to you from the message this week?

3. What are the three ways the church (Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant) defines the concept of justification? (See below for the definitions). What are the main differences between the three? Why is it important for us to understand the differences in how they view justification?

4. Read James 2:21-24. How does James seem to contradict the idea of justification by faith alone when he says, “faith without works is dead”. What is a “dead faith” versus a “live faith”?

APPLICATION

Spend some time this week thinking about these formulas which Matt shared:

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. What is one of your favorite memories of your father?

2. If you planted a garden, have you harvested anything yet?

3. If you could automatically play any instrument, what would it be?

Faith = Justification + Works

Not, Faith + Works = Justification

Where do you find yourself in relation to these formulas? Where should you be?

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 be found in all three locations.

Kids Camp, 10-12 July from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Power Play. Register here:

<https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+sr5sc4m/register>

FINAL THOUGHT

You are justified by grace alone though faith alone by Christ alone.

Roman Catholic (Council of Trent (1547): Canon 9). If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to cooperate in order to obtain the grace of justification, and that it is not in any way necessary that he be prepared and disposed by the action of his own will, let him be anathema (*cast into hell, excommunicated*).

Eastern Orthodox (Council of Jerusalem(1672): Article 13). We believe a man to be not simply justified through faith alone, but through faith which works through love, that is to say, through faith and works.

Protestant. Sola Fida (Faith Alone). By grace through faith in Christ alone.