

I. THE UNIVERSAL PROBLEM: ALL ARE GUILTY BEFORE GOD

Romans 3:19

“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.”

DOCTRINE MATTERS

Knowing the God who loves us

Justification: God's Gracious Verdict Over Sinners

Article V: Of Justification

“We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.”

“Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight.”

-Wayne Grudem’s “Systematic Theology”

1. God counts our sins forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as ours
2. God declares us righteous

Vs 20

“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

Vs 23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Isaiah 64:6

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

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Psalms 14:2-3

The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand,^[a] who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

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Ecclesiastes 7:20

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

II. GOD'S GRACIOUS PROVISION: RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD

Romans 3:21

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...”

Vs 22

“The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”

Philippians 3:8–9

“Not having a righteousness of my own... but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

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“Not having a righteousness of my own... but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

(Statement of faith)

“Not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood.”

III. JUSTIFIED FREELY BY GRACE

Romans 3:24

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Gift = not earned.

Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith... not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

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Titus 3:5

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.”

IV. THE GREAT EXCHANGE: SINS FORGIVEN, RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED

Romans 3:24–26

“through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood...”

REDEMPTION - the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

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BIBLICAL REDEMPTION - the act of God freeing humanity from the bondage of sin, death, and spiritual captivity through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, acting as a ransom.

PROPIATION - A wrath-satisfying sacrifice.

2 Cor 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.”

VS 26

“so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

V. GOD'S DECLARATION: A LEGAL VERDICT

Romans 3:26–28

“Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.”

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

VI. ADOPTION: THE RELATIONAL SIDE OF JUSTIFICATION





Romans 5:1

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.”

VII. THE BLESSED RESULTS

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He Will Glorify You

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3. Kill Pride

There is simply no such thing as Christian theology that doesn't have a clear understanding of the Doctrine of Justification at its core.

Paul David Tripp

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