

c) where DO good works fit in?

We are not saved by good works – but we are not saved without works.  
We are saved by grace alone – but grace is never alone.

**Justification**

Romans 3:19-4:6, 4:20-5:1

“the doctrine by which the church stands or falls”

**Discuss:**

What is “peace with God”? Where does it come from?

**5. Application & summary – peace with God**

Romans 5:1, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

“From that moment the whole face of scripture appeared to me in a different light... this passage in Paul became the very gate of paradise for me.” (Martin Luther)

WCF 11.1 modern language

“Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins and by accounting and accepting them as righteous. It is not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone that they are justified. It is not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other act of Christian obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ to them who receive and rest on him and his righteousness by faith. Men do not have this faith of themselves; it is the gift of God.”

WCF 11.2

“Faith—receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness—is the only instrument of justification; yet it is not the only grace in the person justified, but is always accompanied by all other saving graces. Justifying faith is not dead, but works by love.”

**1: What is “justification”?**

**Justification is a legal DECLARATION that we are right with God**

**a) Key Bible words & definition:**

- Justify – Justification – Righteous – Righteousness – Upright
- = “declared by God the judge to be in-the-right with him.”

**b) Justification is NOT a work that God does IN us**

**c) Justification is a legal declaration (e.g. Deut. 25:1, Luke 7:29)**

**d) Justification is God’s declaration that we are right with Him**

- Romans 8:33-34
- “God’s justifying decision is the judgement of the Last Day, declaring where we shall spend eternity, brought forward into the present and pronounced here and now. It is the last judgment that will ever be passed on our destiny; God will never go back on it, however much Satan may appeal against God’s verdict.” (J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*)

## 2. WHO does God declare to be righteous?

### God justifies the UNGODLY

#### a) We are guilty and should not be acquitted

Proverbs 17:15, "Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent-- the LORD detests them both."

#### b) God DOES justify the ungodly (see Romans 4:5, 3:19-24)

## 3. HOW can we be declared right?

### CHRIST'S righteousness is IMPUTED to us

#### a) God gives righteousness – we do not justify ourselves

Romans 1:17, Romans 3:21-22, Romans 5:17, Romans 10:3

Philippians 3:9, "and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."

= "alien righteousness"

#### b) Christ's righteousness is imputed to us

NOT "just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned."

"God cannot but accept into his favour those who are invested with the righteousness of his own Son." (John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*)

#### c) In the context of union with Christ

Romans 5:19

2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

## 4. How do we receive Christ's righteousness?

### Christ's righteousness is imputed to those who BELIEVE

#### a) justification is by faith alone – it is not by works

Galatians 2:15-16, "'We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' <sup>16</sup> know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Philippians 3:8-9, "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."

Romans 1:17, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.'"

Romans 3:22-30, 4:3-5, 4:16, 4:23-24

#### b) why it has to be by faith alone: grace alone... and our sinfulness