

**A Brief Doctrinal Statement
Concerning
JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH**

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

In order to be justified in the eyes of God, a legal transaction must take place that changes a guilty sinner's relationship to God and His law. That sinner must be declared forgiven of all sin, pardoned of all sin, and perfectly righteous.

God, in declaring a sinner perfectly righteous may then declare him justified and view that person as having no sin.

The declaration of a sinner as justified is made on the basis of the active obedience of Jesus Christ to the Law of God, the passive death of Jesus Christ under the wrath of God in behalf of those He would justify, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead in order that He may justify those for whom He died.

Once God's Law was satisfied and His wrath appeased, He was then free to bestow upon those for whom Jesus Christ stood as a substitute, the gracious declaration that they were justified.

However, before doing so, the sinner must come to the place where he forsakes his own righteousness and through faith in Jesus Christ alone, rests upon His righteousness as the only satisfactory righteousness acceptable to God.

All who are justified by faith are viewed in a legal standing before God as perfectly righteous. Since it is a legal declaration, that standing can never be changed.

Although we may be justified ones, viewed without any sin, yet we are still prone to sin. That sin, though effecting our fellowship with God, cannot effect our being justified. We, in humble confession of sin, may find ourselves restored to a sensible relationship with our God but it may never be said that we were restored to the place of being justified.

It is God who justifies sinners.

Romans 8:30-33 – “(30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (31) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (32) He that spared not

his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (33) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? **It is God that justifieth.**”

God justifies sinners for the sake of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 1:26-31 – “(26) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (30) But **of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption: (31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

Romans 5:17-19 – “(17) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more **they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**) (18) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, **so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous**”

God justifies sinners because Jesus Christ satisfied all the divine requirements necessary to justify sinners.

Hebrews 10:10-14 – “(10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**”

Romans 3:24-26 – “(24) **Being justified** freely by his grace **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

God justifies sinners because He counts them as being righteous.

Romans 4:1-8 – “(1) What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? (2) For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. (3) For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and **it was counted unto him for righteousness.** (4) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. (5) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his

faith is **counted for righteousness**. (7) Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth **righteousness** without works, (8) Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”

Philippians 3:7-9 – “(7) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, **the righteousness which is of God by faith:**”

God justifies sinners by counting them righteous when they trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Galatians 2:16 – “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, **even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Acts 13:38-39 – “(38) Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: (39) And by him **all that believe are justified from all things**, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Faith which receives and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness is the only instrument of justification.

Romans 3:28 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Justification is only by the free and sovereign grace of God.

It must be so in order that both the divine justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners.

Romans 8:32 – “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, **how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**”

Romans 3:24 – “Being **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”

Romans 3:26 – “To declare, I say, at this time **his righteousness**: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus”

Romans 11:6 – “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: **otherwise grace is no more grace**. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

Ephesians 1:5-7 – “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **To the praise of the glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, **according to the riches of his grace**”

Ephesians 2:4-7 – “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved**;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew **the exceeding riches of his grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

God did not eternally justify His elect.

They, being chosen by eternal decree in Jesus Christ before the foundation of the earth to be justified must, in their life time, repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour in order that they may be justified before God.

Galatians 3:8 – “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed”

Romans 4:25 – “Who was delivered for our offences, and **was raised again for our justification.**”

Colossians 1:21-22 – “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:”

Titus 3:4-7 – “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **That being justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

God continually forgives the sins of those who are justified.

How can this be? If God justifies the sinner by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and if being justified is a legal standing in which the believer is viewed as though he had no sin, how then is it that a Christian must confess his sins and seek forgiveness for them from God? This is only a seeming contradiction. To properly understand this one must understand the difference between our standing before our God and our present state of being.

I John 1:7-9 – “(7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

Psalm 32:1-5 – “(1) **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.** (2) Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. (3) When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. (4) For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. (5) **I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid.** I said, I will **confess my transgressions** unto the LORD; and **thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.** Selah.”

The Old Testament saints were justified in the same manner as we in the New Testament.

Galatians 3:6-9 – “(6) Even as **Abraham believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. **So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**”

Romans 4:1-5 – “(1) What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? (2) For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. (3) For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.** (4) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. (5) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”