



## Justified | Romans 8

God & My Sanctification | 5.17.20

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Is it true that God loves those who are “in Christ” with unconditional and inseparable love? Is it true that God unconditionally loves those outside of Christ, the unbeliever?

**Romans 5:8-9** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

**John 3:16-18** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

**John 3:35-36** *The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. <sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

**The basis of eternal life over eternal judgment is our response to Jesus Christ.**

God loves the world in the sense that Jesus is offered freely to anyone who calls on him as Lord and Savior. However, this is *not* unconditional love. Those who receive Christ receive God’s mercy. Those who reject Christ receive God’s justice. **NO one, not one single person, receives injustice from God.**

The injustice that plagues our world today is also present in our nation, in our past and present day. If we think injustice does not bleed over into the color of one’s skin, we’re living in self-conceit and self-deceit.

**Injustice is no small issue;** God despises it and calls His people to denounce it! Our holy God never commits or condones acts of injustice. Some receive mercy for the sins they commit, while some receive justice for the sins they commit. **No one receives injustice.**

“While union (our position) with Christ is something that does not ebb and flow, one’s experience of communion (fellowship) with Christ can fluctuate... **When a believer grows comfortable with sin,** this invariably affects the level of intimacy this person feels with God. It is **not that the Father’s love grows and diminishes** for his children in accordance to their actions... Sin tends to isolate the believer, making him **feel** distant from God. Then comes the accusations – both from Satan and self.” John Owen (1616-1683)

“While a saint’s consistency in prayer, corporate worship, and biblical meditation are not things that make God love us more or less, such activities tend to foster the **beautiful experience of communion with God**. Giving in to temptations and neglecting devotion to God threaten the **communion but not the union**. And it is this **union** which encourages the believer to turn from sin and to the God who is quick to forgive, abounding in compassion, and faithful in his unending love.” John Owen

“**Making God’s love contingent on our action** is a sad but common misunderstanding in the church. Remember, a believer’s union is never in jeopardy. For God’s love can never be heightened by any act of ours, and cannot be lessened by anything in us. While **our sense of communion with God** may fluctuate, **his love does not grow and diminish**. The **wrath of God against the sin of saints was exhausted on the cross**.” John Owen

1. **Positional Sanctification:** This refers to salvation, a one-time event, which was settled and secured because of Christ! It is also known as justification.

2. **Practical or Progressive Sanctification:** This is the growing /maturing life-long process of every believer whereby we become more like Christ. Sanctification is the working of God in the surrendered and obedient life of the believer.

- **Romans 8:12** *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*
- **Philippians 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- **Hebrews 2:1** *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*
- **Hebrews 3:13** *but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*
- **1 Peter 2:11** *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.*

**If we become serious about our sanctification, it will...** 1. Expose our pride 2. Attack our traditions 3. Counter our consumerism 4. Expand our comfort zones 5. Dismantle our personal agendas 6. Question our friendships

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**Digging Deeper:** Prayerfully read the following passages inviting God’s help with your study.

**Psalms 119:18** | A prayer for Bible Study

**Galatians 5:17** | Why working out our salvation is so challenging

**Colossians 3:1-15** | What does this passage teach me about God? (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

- What does this passage teach me about human nature? What promises are there to claim?
- What commands are there to obey? What sins are there to avoid?

**Note v 11** *“There are no cultural differences in Christ (barbarian, Scythian). The Greeks considered all non-Greeks to be barbarians; the Scythians were the lowest barbarians of all! Yet, in Jesus Christ, a person’s cultural status is no advantage or disadvantage.” Warren Wiersbe*

- What does this passage teach me about how to treat others?