

Declared Righteous!

What Doctrine?

- William Cunningham: "there is no subject which possesses more intrinsic importance than attaches to this one."
- Thomas Watson: "the very hinge and pillar of Christianity"
- John Calvin: "the main hinge"
- John Stott: "nobody has understood Christianity who does not understand"
- James Boice: "there is nothing in all life and history that is more important than these teachings"

What Doctrine?

- Martin Luther: "this doctrine is the head and the cornerstone. It alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves, and defends the church of God; and without it the church of God cannot last for one hour"
- The Gospel!
- Justification!

What Justification Is

- The Word
 - *justify* = "to declare righteous"
 - a legal decision vs. a process
 - objective vs. subjective
 - in courtroom of heaven vs. inside you

A Legal Declaration -- proof

- Context: courts and legal decisions (e.g., Rom. 8:33-34; Deut. 25:1; Pro. 17:15).
- Opposite: "condemn" (Rom. 5:16; 8:33-34; Deut. 25:1; Pro. 17:15; Matt. 12:37)
- Usage: Deut. 25:1; Pr. 17:15; Luke 7:29
- Rom. 4:5

What Justification Is

- The Elements
 - He credits our sins to Christ (Rom. 4:7-8; cf. Is. 53)
 - He credits us with Christ's perfect righteousness (Rom. 5:19)
 - God renders a legal decision that:
 - forgives my sin (Rom. 4:6-8)
 - declares me forever righteous in His sight
- Rom. 3:24 adds that justification is...
 - All of God's grace
 - Based solely on the work of Christ

What Justification Is

- Some Definitions

- Westminster: "Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are thus justified, and did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to His Father's justice in their behalf. Yet, inasmuch as He was given by the Father for them, and His obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead, and both, freely, not for anything in them, their justification is only of free grace; that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners."

What Justification Is

- Some Definitions

- Shorter Catechism: "an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone."
- Berkhof: "A judicial act of God, in which He declares, on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, that all the claims of the law are satisfied with respect to the sinner."

What Justification Is

- The Essential Issues

- a judicial decision, not a process.
- by faith alone, not by any human activity
- an imputed righteousness, not by an inherent or infused righteousness

How Justification Is Appropriated

- Rom. 3:22
- Phil. 3:8-9
- *Sola Fide*

How Justification Applies

- We have peace with God (1)



How Justification Applies

- We have peace with God (1)
- We stand in God's grace (2a)
- We hope in God's glory (2b)
- We rejoice in our tribulations (3-4)
- We Are Confident of God's Love (5-8)
- We Will Be Saved from God's Wrath (9-10)
- We Glory in God's Person (11)