



OUR SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

Part 009 - Justified by faith - the foundation for everything

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INTRODUCTION

- How can we know God intimately?
- Does God truly accept us?
- Where does our acceptance before God come from?
- How can we live a life that is pleasing to Him?
- What happens when we sin?

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I. JUSTIFICATION IS NOT...

A. Justification is not by works

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Table 1 - The Gospel and Religion

Gospel	Religion
(God's Supernatural attempt to reach man)	(Man's natural attempt to reach God)
Grace	Works
Faith	Obedience
Unconditional Love	Judgementalism
Transforming Holy Spirit	Personal Effort
Grace leads to Obedience	Obedience leads to grace

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Gal 1:6-7

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Gal 5:4

Christ is become of no effect to you, whoever of you are justified by the law; you are fallen from grace.

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JESUS + ANYTHING = NOTHING.

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Question:

1. **Why do think the focus on good works is such an easy trap for Christians?**
2. **Can you think of any examples of ways people today try and add to the work of the cross?**

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I. JUSTIFICATION IS NOT...

- A. Justification is not by works
- B. Justification is not a pardon

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II. JUSTIFICATION IS ...

A. The Righteousness of God: Romans 3:21-24

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Rom 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

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1. *"apart from law"*
2. *"a righteousness of God ... has been made known"*
3. *"to which the Law and the Prophets testify"*
4. *"this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe"*
5. *"for there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*
6. *"being justified freely by his grace"*
7. *"through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus"*

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II. JUSTIFICATION IS ...

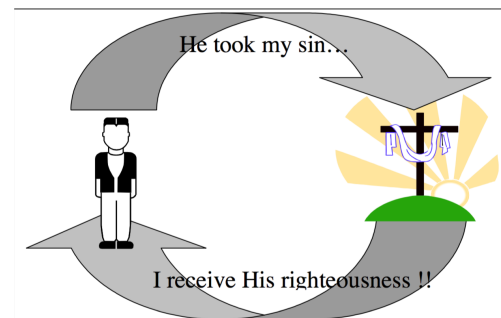
- ### A. The Righteousness of God: Romans 3:21-24
- ### B. The Great Exchange

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Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

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III. THE CRUCIAL ISSUES OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

A. We Cannot Justify Ourselves

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III. THE CRUCIAL ISSUES OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

- ### A. We Cannot Justify Ourselves
- ### B. We Cannot Take Credit for What God has Done

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III. THE CRUCIAL ISSUES OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

- A. We Cannot Justify Ourselves
- B. We Cannot Take Credit for What God has Done
- C. We Must Trust God Completely

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Questions

1. Can you simply, yet clearly, define justification by faith?
2. What does it mean when we describe justification by faith as a "passive righteousness"?
3. In our daily walk with the Lord, why is it so hard for we who began in grace to continue in grace, trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross?
4. How does justification by faith affect the way you relate to God and the way you think He relates to you?

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