

Living Word Church
Sunday, October 1, 2023

Justified: A Study of Galatians
Galatians 2:16

16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died [a]in vain.”

Intro: The justification of a person is not an acquittal of sin; it is the restoration of favor and righteousness upon that person.

Question #1: How can we be assured that God has forgotten all of our sins?

I. The Law of the Old Testament serves to point out our sins.

Ceremonial Law – these were the laws concerning sacrifices for sin, sickness, and offerings to God.

Civil Law – these are the rules of the nation. This is how the nation was going to respond on civil issues to one another.

Moral Law – the moral law of God has never changed and it is still impactful today.

Question: Do we still need to consider the law of God? If so, why?

- God’s law is holy (Romans 7:12).

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

- God’s law is a teacher (Galatians 3:24).

24 Therefore the law was our [a]tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

- God’s law is impossible to uphold (Romans 8:3).

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

II. By faith, we are justified in Christ.

- Faith is placing my trust in the work of Christ (Romans 4:1-3).

What then shall we say that Abraham our father[a] has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was [b]accounted to him for

righteousness.”⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted [c]as grace but as debt.

- We cannot become righteous by following rules.
- Because of Christ, we change positions from condemned to heir of God (Titus 3:4-7).

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

III. We must be willing to lay ourselves down for Christ.

- As Christ lives in us, we live to please God, not ourselves.
- If we use grace as a license to live as we please, then we make a mockery of the cross.

**Question #3: What does it mean for you to be crucified with Christ?
Why is this so hard to do?**

Promise of the Day

By faith, I am justified. The favor of the Lord is on my life because I have put my trust in God. Because of the work of Christ, I am now an heir of God. I have been crucified with Christ and it is Christ who lives in me.