

“A right understanding of justification is absolutely essential to the whole Christian faith”  
– Wayne Grudem

**Shorter Catechism Q33 – What is justification?**

Justification is 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.

**1. Justification is a declaration made by God**

- It is made by the one who will judge us
- Something God says about us, not something you feel or experience
- It is unalterable because it is grounded in Jesus and not in us
- It is an act, not a process – completed in an instant
- There are no different levels of justification

**2. You have been declared “Not Guilty” because of Jesus**

- “Justified freely... through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ” v24
- All my sin is transferred to Jesus (imputed) – and He is treated as if *He* had sinned *my* sin – 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, Rom 3:25
- God has to punish sin – he has to remain just. But he offers to bear the punishment so he can be just and also spare us – Rom 3:26

**3. You have been declared “Righteous” because of Jesus**

- “A righteousness from God has been revealed” – Rom 3:21
- Not enough to be guiltless, must be positively righteous in every area
- Jesus’ perfect righteousness is laid to my account. I am treated as if *I* had lived *Christ’s* perfect life – 2 Cor 5:21

**4. Justification is received by faith**

- “man is justified by faith” – Rom 3:28
- God extends this staggering offer ‘freely’ – Rom 3:24
- Faith is the hand that reaches out to receive the gift – Rom 3:24
- Doesn’t matter how big/small our faith is, how messy/‘clean’ our lives are
- Justification isn’t based on us – based only on Jesus

**5. Justification brings sweet blessings – Rom 5:1-2**

**a) Peace with God – v1**

- A fact not a feeling. You are at peace with God.
- No more condemnation – Rom 8:1, 33,34
- You are as justified on a good day as on a bad day
- Between you and God there is a state of permanent unbreakable peace



**Notices**

Sab	Evening service in Milford - Topic: Sanctification	8pm
Tues	Prayer time - Mark & Judith’s	8pm
Sat 17th	Ladies invited to Breakfast with Vicki Faughan R.P. Hall - Come along, enjoy a leisurely Breakfast, followed by a talk by Mrs Vicki Graham on the topic: Woman and Beauty: Is beauty only skin-deep? What is the secret of lasting beauty? Find out what the Bible says...	9.30–11.30am
Sat 17th	Presbytery Youth Event (and for anyone else) Climbing Mt Errigal - meet at carpark at foot at 2pm. Bring warm coat and hiking boots if you have them, or suitable shoes for a climb.	
Sabb 18th	Praise service in Bready	7pm

**Sermon continued**

**b) Access into his grace – v2**

- God doesn’t look on us with grudging acceptance - but as on His Son
- “in which we now stand” – stand, not crawl or grovel
- We can come with confidence – not because of ourselves, but because of Jesus

**c) Confidence for the future – v2**

- Justification is the verdict of the day of Judgement brought forward
- He will make us what he has declared us to be – his glory depends on it
- We will enjoy the glory of God forever
- What confidence justification gives us

Next Sabbath sermon topic: Adoption - John 1: 10-13; Rom 8:12-27

Opening Psalm: 77:1-8

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