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What are Justification and Adoption?

Lesson 9: Speaking of God

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Justification Is a Legal Declaration by God

Those whom God effectually calls, have repentance, faith, and union with Christ, He also freely forgives all their sins by the blood of Christ and in God's sight Christ's righteousness belongs to them (Rom. 8:30, Rom. 3:24).

The instantaneous, legal act of God in which the sinner is acquitted from all guilt of sin and declared to be righteous in God's sight is called justification.

Justification accounts Christ's righteousness to the sinner, and declares the sinner to be righteous and absolved, rather than condemned or accused (Exodus 23:7, Deut. 25:1, Proverbs 17:15, Luke 18:14, Romans 3-5, 8:1,33).

Our sins are imputed to Christ; Christ's righteousness is imputed to us (Col. 2:14, 1 Pet. 2:24, 1 Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 5:21).

Justification is through the satisfaction that Christ has made by His death for all the sinner's sins, and is applied through faith (1 John 1:7; Heb. 10:14, 9:26; 2 Cor. 5:19; Rom. 3:23,25,30, 5:1,3, Acts 13:38,39).

Justification is by Faith Alone

Justification is a result of God's grace and it is applied to the elect in Christ through faith alone (Rom. 3:24; Ephesians 2:8,9).



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Faith is the sole instrument by which we are united to Christ, whose perfect righteousness and satisfaction for sins is alone the ground of our acceptance with God (Rom. 3:28, 4:4,5, 5:18,19, 2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9).

Adoption: Membership in a New Family

The act of God in which the children of wrath are made members of His family is called adoption (John 1:12, Eph. 2:3,19).

In His regeneration of those He has chosen, God imparts to them eternal life by the Holy Spirit so that they are born into His family; and they become, upon adoption, legal sons in full standing (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5 9).

Through union with Christ all believers are declared to be and are made the sons of God, and joint heirs with Christ, to whom belong all the promises of this life, and that which is to come (1 Thess. 1:1; John 17:21, 20:17; Heb. 2:11, 1 John 4:16; Gal. 2:19,20).

Those who have been justified enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God (Rom. 8:17, John 1:12), have His name put upon them (Jer. 14:9, 2 Cor. 6:18, Rev. 3:12), receive the spirit of adoption (Rom. 8:15), have access to the throne of grace with boldness (Eph. 3:12, Rom. 5:2), are enabled to cry, Abba, Father (Romans 8:15, Gal. 4:6), are protected (Prov. 14:26), provided for (Matt. 6:30,32, 1 Pet. 5:7), and chastened by Him as by a Father (Heb. 12:6).

We live as heirs to all the blessings that God desires to lavish upon his children (Rom. 8:15,17).