

## Question 50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Q50. What is justification?

**A50. It is God's forgiving sinners, and treating them as if they had never sinned.**

*Scripture Base:* Luke 15:11-32;

Rom 3:10, 23-26, Titus 1:2; 1 Pet 3:18

*Doctrine:* WCF 11 SC 33

### Supplementary Questions.

1. What is justification?

2. How can God declare a sinner to be just?

Song: "The Redeemer Song" – Judy Rogers  
"When I Survey" & "Rock of Ages"

### Teaching Notes

**Review Q 49.** What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace? - *To justify and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.*

**Read** Luke 15:11-32 Discuss the prodigal

### Questions.

1. It is often said that justification means "just as if I never sinned,"

**But** it also means "just as if I've done everything right." (Not to have sinned is the same as having done everything right, when you consider sins of commission *and* omission.)

Literally justification means to "**make one just.**" In the Bible it refers to God declaring a person to be just. Since we come into the world already guilty, and we cannot obey God perfectly, if we are going to be justified, we need to be made so or declared so by God. We will never be able to make ourselves just. Discuss not only the fact that **we** cannot do anything truly good – everything we do is **still sin** in God's eyes – but that we cannot do anything to get **rid of the guilt** we already have.

2. God is holy and righteous and cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Man is fallen in sin, guilty and under condemnation (Rom. 3:10). God cannot declare any man to be just on the basis of that man's or anyone's personal righteousness. He can only do so on the basis of **another's righteousness**, a perfect righteousness (Rom. 3:23-26). Who is the only One you know who has a perfect righteousness? Jesus is the only One who has ever done everything God requires.

**Gospel:** Since you came into the world guilty of Adam's sin (Ps. 51:5) and have done nothing but sin since you were born (Rom. 3:10) – not having a right heart towards God and man is sin even if we aren't able to express it when we were very young – how will you ever be just in God's eyes? The only way you can is through the righteousness of someone else – Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:4-5). Jesus obeyed God perfectly – so that He could give those who trust Him a perfect record of obedience – and He died on the cross – so that He could take away the sins of those who trust in Him. If you will trust Jesus to save you, He will cleanse you of your sins, and give you His perfect righteousness, and God will declare you to be just. This is what Jesus offers you now, if you will turn from your sins and trust in Him (Matt. 11:28-30).

**Extras:** Draw 'before & after' pictures of the prodigal. Use 1 Pet 3:18.  
**Songs:** "The Redeemer Song" , "When I Survey" & "Rock of Ages"