15. **Provide an explanation and biblical defense of justification.**

A. Define justification

1) A legal action, which means to declare, or render one as righteous

   a) God is the justifier; man is the recipient

      - Rom. 4:5, “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.”

   b) Justification comes by grace, through faith

      - Eph. 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

   c) Justification comes only to those who have repented (Matt. 3:8; Acts 2:38; Rom. 2:4) and those who have confessed Christ as Lord (Rom. 10:9-10)

      - Matt. 3:8, “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;”
      - Acts 2:38, “Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
      - Rom. 2:4, “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”
      - Rom. 10:9-10, “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

2) In declaring believers as not guilty,

   a) Jesus is declared guilty (Col. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24)

      - Col. 2:14, “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”
• 1 Pet. 2:24, “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

b) We are no longer condemned and are free from guilt (Rom. 8:1; 33-34)

• Rom 8:1, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
• Rom. 8:33-34, “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”

c) We are declared righteous (Rom. 4:5; 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:21)

• Rom. 4:5, “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,”
• Rom. 5:1, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”
• 2 Cor. 5:21, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

It is a legal act wherein God pronounces that the believing sinner has been credited with all the virtues of Jesus Christ.

An instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us, then, to be righteous in His sight.

B. Putting it all together, “I believe justification is a legal action in which God declares those who, through faith in Christ, have repented of their sins, and confessed Christ as their sovereign Lord, to be freed from sin and made righteous because of the imputation of their sins to Christ and the imputation of His righteousness to them. Since justification is a legal pardon for sin, this means that God treats all those who receive His gift of eternal life by faith as completely justified under the law, entitled to all the privileges due those hypothetically, who have perfectly kept the law. This frees the recipient from all condemnation, not because he has changed his behavior, though he will, but because God now views him as being guilt free.”

1 NorthCreek Church Teaching Statement

A. Defining the terms and what the Bible says:

1) Faith - Trust/faith/belief – these terms are synonymous. To trust is to put your faith or your belief in something. It is a strong conviction. It means you are relying upon something. To have faith means to believe or to be assured of something unseen. It is a settled confidence (Heb. 11:1)

2) Justification - It is a legal act wherein God pronounces that the believing sinner has been credited with all the virtues of Jesus Christ. This was taught in #14

3) Sanctification – “to be set apart for a divine purpose, consecrated, made holy.”

   a) Past (or positional)

      • One time even (1 Cor. 1:2) by God (Heb. 10:10) at the moment of conversion (1 Cor. 6:11) for believers (Acts 26:18)

1 Cor. 1:2, “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:”

Heb. 10:10, “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

1 Cor. 6:11, “Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

   b) Present (or progressive)

      • Process (Heb. 10:14)

Heb. 10:14, “For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

      • By God’s grace (Phil 2:12-13; Tit. 2:11-15)
Phil. 2:12-13, “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

Tit. 2:11-15, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

- Through the Spirit using His Word (Jn. 17:17; Gal. 5:16)

Jn. 17:17, “Sanctify them in the truth; thy Word is truth.”

Gal. 5:16, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

- Involving man’s cooperation in obedience
  - Purging sin (2 Cor. 7:1)

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

- Continuing in faith (Phil. 3:12-14)

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Practicing our righteousness (Phil. 2:12-13; 4:9)

“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

- Placing our hope (Ps. 42:11)

“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?”
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.”

➢ Transforming of the mind (Rom. 12:1-2)

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

c) Future – we are continually being transformed until we die when sanctification will be completed.

Rom. 8:28-29, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;”

2 Cor. 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

B. What is their relationship to faith?

1) We are saved by faith and we grow as we apply our faith. God has done and is doing His part, and we are doing our part. Our part is to, by faith, present ourselves as slaves to our Master (Romans 12:1, Jude 1:4), purging sin out of our lives making no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14), and persevering to the end (Matthew 11:29; 2 Corinthians 9:24, Hebrews 12:1, 2 Peter 1:10).

2) We do all these things and more by faith, knowing that God is simultaneously doing His part to conform us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). For we know that He wants to and will conform us to His will (Philippians 2:13). We trust that He alone has the authority to forgive sins and give us peace (Matthew 9:6; Galatians 5:22). We rest in the promise that He is always at work on the believer and will be until we are glorified with Him (Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 10:14). 2

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2 Jeremy Pray’s paper
17. Describe the role of repentance in beginning and continuing in the Christian life. Explain the importance of the doctrine of repentance for biblical counseling.

A. Defining repentance –

1) Change of mind, a rethinking,\(^3\) that leads to a change of actions (Acts 26:20)
   a) Job changed his mind (Job 42:4-6)
   b) From disbelief to belief (Matt. 4:17)
   c) Granted by God (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25)

2) Includes confession – homologeo – to say the same thing; it’s an agreement, not an emotion.
   a) personal recognition of sin (Jam. 5:16)
   b) brokenness and contrite heart (Ps. 32:3-6; 51)

B. Change of actions

1) Bearing fruits of repentance (Lk. 3:8-9)

2) Performing deeds (Acts 26:19-20)

3) When we confess, we find compassion (Prov. 28:13); He forgives (1 Jn. 1:9)

4) Godly sorrow and vindication (2 Cor. 7:8-11)
   a) Vindication
   b) Indignation
   c) Fear
   d) Longing
   e) Zeal
   f) Avenging of wrong

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\(^3\) Jay Adams, *A Theology of Christian Counseling*, p. 215
5) From specific sin (2 Cor. 12:21 – impurity, immorality, sensuality)

C. Commanded in the Bible

1) Jesus commanded repentance (Matt. 4:17)

2) God commanded it (Acts 16:30)

3) Paul pointed out the need (Acts 20:21)

4) Peter told them to repent for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38)

5) John called for it (Rev. 2:5, 22, 3:3, 19)

If you don’t repent, you will die (Lk. 13:3)
18. **Describe the doctrine of Union with Christ explaining its biblical basis and implications for Christian living.**

Romans 6:4-7

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

A. United in death

B. United in life

1. Through the resurrection
2. Beginning at justification
3. Continuing through sanctification
4. Being fulfilled in glorification (Eph. 4:13-15; 2 Cor. 3:18)

C. United in power over sin (Rom. 6:6-7)

D. United as it reaches to every facet of our lives

1. Relationships

Rom. 12:5, “so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Christ is the head of the body, being the church

So, we bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:1-2), suffer with one another (1 Cor. 12:26); we speak truth to one another (Eph. 4); we are members of one another (Rom. 12)

2. Jobs

Col. 3:23, “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,”

3. Behavior

Eph. 4:1, “Walk in a manner worth of the calling with which you have been called.”

4. Family life
Husbands love, nourish, cherish, honor
Wives respect, submit, love and help

5. Attitudes

We are strong (Eph. 6:10)
We are encouraged (Phil. 2:1)
We rejoice (Phil. 3:1)