



Justification

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

The most unsettling aspect of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is this statement: *"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matt. 5:48). If the gauge of righteousness is absolute perfection, what hope is there for anyone?

Genesis 15:6 is an example of the doctrine of justification which runs throughout the Bible. What can we learn about the doctrine of justification from Genesis 15:6?

Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

How does the Bible's teaching on how we may be made right with God clash with all the religions of the world?

How does the biblical doctrine of justification set true Christianity apart from every form of false religion?

What does Romans 1:17 tell us about how faith is linked to justification?

Where do we come by our faith that justifies us?

What is the benefit to us through justification by God?
Romans 8:33 - Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who accuses us before God?

Does God forgiving us mean that He excuses or disregards our wrongdoing?

What does Isaiah 53:6 have to say about how people may be justified before God?

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him [Christ] the iniquity of us all.

What does Romans 3:24 have to say about how people may be justified before God?

Romans 3:24 - being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Does justify does mean to be made righteous?

Romans 4:5 - But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

What is the difference in being made righteous and being seen as righteous by God?

What is necessary for people to be justified before God?

Romans 3:28 - Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Does James 2:24 conflict with Romans 3:28?

James 2:24 - You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Does God need to see our works to know that a person believes?

1 Samuel 16:7 - the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

What value then do good works have in the life of a believer?

How do our good works motivated by faith in Christ serve others?

Should we be satisfied to only be justified by God?

What does the parable of the Pharisee and the publican tell us about justification?

Luke 18:9-14 - Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

When does justification occur?

How is it that God would find a traitorous tax collector more acceptable than the Pharisees who took great pains to obey every detail of God's law?

What kind of righteousness describes the attitude of the Pharisees?

What is the rest of the story here... do you think the tax collector continued praying in fear and anguish on every visit to the temple?

What is the distinction between justification and sanctification?

Can you have justification and sanctification separate from each other?

Does justification by faith mean that Christians do not have to observe God's laws?