



ROMANS

Lesson 5: God's Unbelievable Love

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Man is blessed by God through justification blessed beyond all imagination. Justification and its results are gloriously covered in Romans Chapter 5. Justification is a legal (forensic) term where God is the Judge. Justification happens at conversion, it's not something we gain over time, or through works. At justification, God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to the believer and declares the believer "not guilty" and no longer under God's wrath.

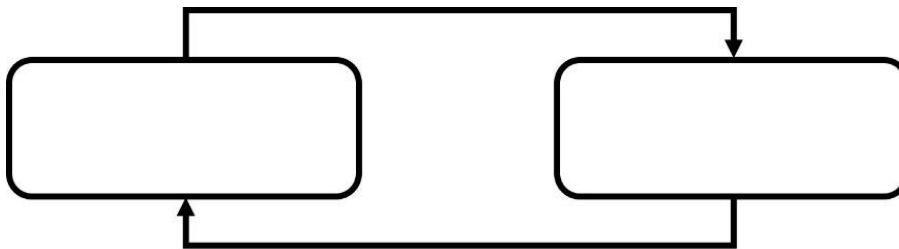


Figure 1: Justification, the "Great Exchange"
(to be filled in during class).

CENTRAL QUESTION

Can it be said that people are saved by faith alone?

ROMANS CHAPTER 5

A. The Results of Justification (5:1-5)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

B. The Great Depth of Justification (5:6-11)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

C. Jesus Contrasted with Adam (5:12-21)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-- ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. ¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. (5:1-11) List all the benefits of being justified?

2. (5:1) John 14:27 says that Jesus gives a peace that is different from the world's peace. How would you describe the difference between God's peace and the world's peace?
3. (5:2) Does having access to God mean he will always give us what we want, and when we want it? Why or why not?
4. (5:3-5) Paul says we are to glory in our sufferings? No one likes to suffer, so why should we "glory" in them?
5. (5:3-5) If suffering is good for us, should we deliberately seek circumstances that produce suffering? Why or why not? (See 1 Pet. 2:20).

6. (5:18-19) Describe the impact that both Adam and Jesus had on humanity.

ADAM	JESUS

7. Optional leader's question(s).

SUMMARY

Being a Christian not only gives believers a positive, encouraging hope for the future but it also produces amazing benefits in the here and now.

Imagine how Paul's words in this chapter encouraged and united the Christian Jews and Gentiles in Rome.