

SESSION 1: Justification – Right standing with God! We stand free from the penalty of sin!

LARGE GROUP TEACHING PORTION – approximately 45 minutes

Introduction –

The nature and focus of this study...

Justification defined... and our three-fold salvation explained

A. The Benefits of Justification (5:1-11) *What we have...*

After explaining (Romans 3 & 4) that we are justified by our faith, Paul explains the benefits of our justification.

1. *We have peace with God (5:1)*

2. *We stand in God's grace (5:2)*

3. *We rejoice in hope (5:1-5)*

4. *We have His Holy Spirit (5:5)*

5. *We are reconciled to God (5:6-11)*

Paul then moves to explaining how our justification came about by exploring the mechanics of our justification

B. The Mechanism of Justification (5:12-21) *How it came about...*

How can it be that the death of one man can serve to reconcile multitudes of people to God? If Christ has died on our behalf, wouldn't Christ need to die a multitude of deaths? Paul addresses this in verses 12-21.

1. *Imputation of sin (5:12-14)*

Our Three-fold Salvation

Justification – Right Standing > At the moment of our conversion, God made us righteous positionally. We were freed from the penalty of sin. Being justified means God considers us righteous judicially. But that does not mean we always behave in a righteous manner after our initial salvation.

Sanctification – Right Living > Presently, God is making us righteous practically. We are being freed from the power of sin. God is continuing the process of salvation as we grow and mature in our Christian character. This is called sanctification, and will be dealt with by Paul in chapters 6 and 7. The process of sanctification begins with tribulations, which results in our perseverance, which develops proven character, which results in the hope of a future salvation (5:3-4).

Glorification – Right for Eternity > In the future, God will make us righteous permanently. He will bring us into his glory and his presence and we will be freed from the presence of sin. This future hope is called our glorification, and will be dealt with extensively by Paul in chapter 8

2. Imputation of righteousness (5:15-21)

Contrasts Between Adam and Christ in Romans 5:15-21				
Verse	Adam		Christ	
	Action	Result	Action	Result
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

Source: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Volume II: The New Testament*, 461.

C. Summary of our Justification - Paul summarizes what he has said in 5:21 –

SMALL GROUP PORTION - SESSION 1 (approximately 1 hour)

Small group discussion from Romans 5:1-21 teaching session 1 (allow 15-25 minutes for your group to interact with and think about the teaching session – refreshments may be shared at this point or at the end)

Most often the way to stay or become physically healthy (unless of course we have a serious illness or disease) is to address our diet and our exercise. This is true for our spiritual health as well – so we will use the phrases “spiritual diet” – what we take in, study, ponder etc. and “spiritual exercise” – what we do with what we are learning (our spiritual practices and obedience).

DIET...

1. What stands out to you most about the teaching on Justification?
2. What benefit of justification most intrigues you?

EXERCISE...

- 3. Transformation verse: Work on the memory verse as a group or with a group member; challenge each other to learn the verse before the next small group meeting.

Small group sharing and prayer time (remainder of the time)

For personal reflection...

Restate the most meaningful statement or Scripture from tonight's study?	Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.	What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

Small group take home article and study (hand out, email? Online?)