

# Understanding Justification

## Introduction:

How can a just God who is repulsed by evil associate with any human? How can the Just One enter a relationship with unjust people? It is truly amazing as to what God has done for us. We can be justified in the name of Jesus Christ. Justification involves righteousness and justice – it is impossible to be righteous without being just. Without justification, forgiveness would be impossible. The humble Christian whose heart is constantly ready to repent can be certain God keeps His promise to forgive.

## I. Understanding justification.

- A. *Justification* is found only \_\_\_\_\_ times in the English bible.
  1. We have been acquitted of guilt; declared righteous; and found \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Justification means to be freed from sin and reconciled to God.
- B. Rom. 4:23-25 - In Christianity, justification is accomplished through \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Gal. 2:16 – Those who live by faith are justified – Gal. 2:16.
  1. When we demonstrate our belief through a living and active faith, God pronounces man to be just based on the sinless life and sacrifice of Jesus.
    - a) 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:20-21
    - b) Gal. 3:26-27 – it is in \_\_\_\_\_ that God's clothes us with Jesus Christ.
- D. 1 John 1:5-7 - We remain justified so long as we continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ in fellowship with Jesus.

## II. What does it mean to walk in the light?

- A. It is more than \_\_\_\_\_ or good intentions.
- B. It involves leading a life of holiness and \_\_\_\_\_. 1 John 3:24
  1. It should be our goal to be holy, chaste, and an example to others.
- C. It involves walking in \_\_\_\_\_. 1 John 2:21-23; 4:1, 6
  1. We must embrace God's truth & oppose spiritual error.
- D. It involves a commitment to avoid a \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. 1 John 3:3-10
  1. *Lifestyle of sin* describes a \_\_\_\_\_, persistent sinner who rejects repentance and confession.
  2. 3:6 – does this verse contradict 1:8, 10? No.
    - a) Christian who humbly serves God & does his best will steer clear of habitual and deliberate sin.
  2. 3:9 – we must work to steer clear of the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

## III. How do we remain justified while struggling with sin?

- A. 1 John 1:7, 9
  1. 1:7 emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_ promise. It is declared in the word \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. 1:9 – emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility & behavior. It is declared in the word \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. When we as individuals are committed to walking in the light...
  1. We will accept responsibility by \_\_\_\_\_ our mistakes.
  2. God promises to cleanse us of \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
- C. 1:7 should offer each person extreme encouragement.
- D. God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ people who want \_\_\_\_\_.

## Conclusion:

- A. Christians have been acquitted of all guilt and declared righteous.
- B. God has pronounced us \_\_\_\_\_. We have been reconciled to Him.
- C. As long as we are committed to serving Him – walking in the light, and confess our sins and shortcomings – we can be *assured* of our salvation!
- D. Not a Christian? All the hope/optimism/assurances we've talked about today can be yours.