

# Presbyterianism 101

Officer Preparation & Christian Enrichment

## Nature of Justification (11.1)

*Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies; not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous, not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God*

## The Company of Justification (11.2)

*Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.*

## The Company of Justification (11.2)

- **Faith:** the instrument of Justification
  - Faith is not a virtue
  - Saving faith is abandoning all attempts to please (or appease) God on our own and resting in Christ alone, His righteousness alone to gain us acceptance with God
  - Even giving up on our repentance as basis
- **Faith is never alone in the Justified person**

## The Company of Justification (11.2)

- **Genuine Faith Always Accompanied by other christian graces**
  - e.g. Godliness, holiness
  - Distinguish: Godly living vs. Moral living
  - Why live rightly if only the elect go to heaven?
- **Danger of Antinomianism:**

## Justice and Justification (11.3)

*Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are thus justified, and did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to His Father's justice in their behalf. Yet, inasmuch as He was given by the Father for them; and His obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead; and both freely, not for anything in them; their justification is only of free grace; that both the exact justice, and rich grace of God, might be glorified in the justification of sinners.*

### Justice and Justification (11.3)

- **Christ fully satisfies the debt**
- **Displays God's Free Grace AND Justice**
  - God's must sacrifice His law (justice), His elect or a willing (and qualified) substitute
  - Elect Sinners rewarded based on representative
- **Errors Confronted:** Romanism, Liberalism, Antinomianism

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### Time of Justification (11.4)

*God did, from all eternity, decree to justify all the elect, and Christ did, in the fulness of time, die for their sins, and rise again for their justification: nevertheless, they are not justified, until the Holy Spirit doth, in due time, actually apply Christ unto them*

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### Time of Justification (11.4)

- **Salvation of the Elect ordained in Eternity**
  - Covenant within the Trinity to elect, redeem, and apply redemption to the elect
  - Covenant of Redemption
- **Judicial Debt Satisfied**
- **Justification is only through Faith**, which is a gift of God; experiential piety, not cold "doctrinalism"

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### Life Under Justification (11.5)

*God doth continue to forgive the sins of those that are justified: and although they can never fall from the state of justification; yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's fatherly displeasure, and not have the light of His countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.*

### Life Under Justification (11.5)

- **Radical Change for the Justified Person**

- Change of status re: God, the Law
- Sonship according to the eternal covenant

- **Forgiveness of Sin**

- God continues to forgive the sins of his people as His people continue to pray such
- God's people continue to grow in repentance (and faith!)

*When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ``Repent!'' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance...Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.*

*- Martin Luther*

## Life Under Justification (11.5)

### • Suffering and the Christian Life

- Non-Christians, Covenant Breakers, etc. suffer and their suffering is an installment on their eternal penalty
- The Justified never experience penal suffering in this life, but fatherly chastisement

**Psa 119:75-76**, *I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant.*

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## Justification Old & New (11.6)

*The justification of believers under the old testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the new testament.*

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