



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 18: THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD'S JUSTIFICATION OF SINNERS

Opening Review

- *Justification* was introduced in the previous lesson. What do you remember about the term? How is it used in the Bible?

Justification



Justification is a courtroom term. It has to do with a judge, a court of law, the accused person or persons, and the verdict: either guilty or innocent, condemned or acquitted. *When God justifies me, that does not mean I am not guilty. It means that God does not count me as guilty.* He declares or pronounces me to be just or righteous. He regards me as holy, as if I had never sinned.

Forgiveness and Justification

The terms forgiveness and justification are similar:

FORGIVENESS

removes what we must get rid of: sin and guilt

JUSTIFICATION

gives us what we need but don't have: perfect righteousness

The Ten Commandments do not by themselves make us Christians, for God's wrath and displeasure still remain on us because we cannot fulfill His demands. But the Gospel brings pure grace and makes us upright and pleasing to God (Luther's Large Catechism).

Why do we need perfect righteousness or justification before God?

Matthew 5:48

Isaiah 64:6 (431)

Who is the Judge that justifies us?

Romans 8:33 (889)

Whom has God justified or declared righteous?

Romans 3:23-24 (895)

Why is God able to declare all people “not guilty”?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (640)

What is the only way by which we can receive God’s gift of justification?

Galatians 2:16 (902)

God declared all people in all the world *not guilty* of their sins. This is sometimes called *universal justification*.

What, then, is the sin that ultimately condemns? _____

Summary

God wants us to think this way:

1. God has already justified the whole ungodly world because of Christ.
2. I am part of this ungodly world.
3. Therefore I too have been justified and declared righteous in God’s sight.

We stand righteous before God:

BY _____

THROUGH _____

BECAUSE OF _____

- Remember that the Holy Spirit gives us the necessary faith in Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:3).
- Remember that faith justifies because it lays hold of and accepts the merits of Christ in the promise of the Gospel.

Why is the teaching of justification so important?

- A. Acts 10:43
- B. Galatians 5:4-5
- C. Romans 8:31-39 (1226)
- D. Ephesians 2:8-9 (791)

Assignment

- Study Questions 206-211 (pp.156-159) in the catechism.