

**Words That Matter!
Justification
Selected Passages**

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The Greek word DIKAIOSIS is where we get our English words ACQUITTAL and JUSTIFICATION and is defined as the ACTION of showing something to be RIGHT or REASONABLE.

- In theological terms, justification is the ACT of God DECLARING men free from guilt and ACCEPTABLE to Himself.
 - A simple way to remember this concept is this:
JUST - AS - IF - I'D

So our working definition this morning is this...

- Justification is God's DECLARATION that a sinner, who has put his faith in Christ, is counted RIGHTEOUS instead of GUILTY, based on Jesus' death on his or her BEHALF.

Four underlying truths about justification:

- 1) God always DOES, and PRONOUNCES judgement, according to what is RIGHTEOUS, that is what is right and good. (Psalm 11:7, 145:17)
- 2) All mankind must APPEAR before God for JUDGEMENT. (2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27; Rev 20:12)

- 3) All PEOPLE are guilty of SIN. (Rom 3:23, 6:23a)
- 4) But God's GRACE and TRUTH changes everything! (Psalm 32:1-2; Acts 13:38-39; Rom 3:23, 6:23-24; Heb 9:27-28a)

So what is our part? Is there anything we can do, need to do, to be justified to God?

The answer is NO ... and YES!

- Let's begin with no. (Isa 64:6; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)
 - It is vitally important to know and understand that there is NOTHING we can do to attain, acquire, coerce, earn or otherwise cause our justification.
- But this is where the "yes" comes into play. (Rom 5:1; 2 Cor 5:17; Heb 11:6; James 2:17)
 - We are called to have FAITH.
 - The only way to be saved is to put our faith in the FINISHED sacrificial WORK of Jesus Christ on the CROSS for our sins.
 - The key to faith is that it is in RESPONSE to what God has ALREADY DONE.
 - And our response is relatively simple: a FAITH-FILLED and FAITH-LIVED life.

Friends, does your life reflect a faith that God has justified your life?

- Are you living in response to salvation or in an attempt to earn salvation?
- What does God's justification of your life mean to you?

