

Since We Have Been Justified  
Romans 5:1-8  
Pastor Mueller

Justification is a critical doctrine.

But some Christians put other teachings at the center.

Justification is often criticized: "When we look at your lives, does it make any difference?"

Two things try to pull us away from Christ.

I. Reading Romans 5 in context

The first 2 chapters show the futility of trying to save ourselves by our own works.

Romans 1 shows the brokenness of the Gentiles.

Romans 2 shows that the Jews have the same problem.

Romans 3 draws us into the same context:

Romans 3:10–12 "as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 3:20, 23-24 "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Romans 4: A key example: even Abraham was saved by faith not works)

Now in Romans 5 he brings it all together. We're justified. So what does this mean?

II. Justification means that we have peace with God (v. 1)

This peace is ours through Christ (v. 1)

We have access, by faith, into grace in which we stand (v. 2)

III. Since we are justified, we rejoice

"Rejoicing" is not synonymous with "feeling happy" It is more often translated as "we boast" or take pride in something

We rejoice in hope of the glory of God (v. 2)

We also can "rejoice" in our sufferings

"Sufferings can also mean afflictions, troubles, or circumstances."

IV. Justification enables us to endure

These verses are often used to give clichéd pep talks which sound like an infomercial for a fitness product.

But growth often does occur through challenge.

Paul is not telling us to seek out suffering. But when afflictions arise, we can meet them with boldness and confidence. Not because we are strong, but because we have been declared righteous.

See what God does through challenges:

Suffering produces endurance

Endurance produces character

Character produces hope

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

V. Justification shows us how much we are loved and strengthens our relationship with Jesus.

Romans 5:6–8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We don't deserve to be justified. We don't deserve to be forgiven. We don't deserve to be loved. That's the point! God does all of these things for those who do not and cannot deserve them.

Who would you give your life for?

Family? Friends? Someone you thought was good? Someone who did something good for you?

A stranger? A criminal? A criminal who had attacked you and your family?

Who did God give His life for? Are you loved?

Justification makes all the difference. We are justified by Christ.