

Righteous By Faith Series
Imputed Righteousness
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Remember, righteousness is a legal term in the courts of Heaven.

Righteousness = lawfully just or blameless: “Not guilty” of breaking the law of God.

Unrighteousness is being guilty of sin. Sin is the breaking or transgression of God’s law, His Ten Commandments.

1 John 3:4

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 7:7

7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Numbers 15:30-31

30 But the soul that doeth *ought presumptuously, whether he be* born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

31 Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his **iniquity** *shall be* upon him.

The English word “iniquity” is a perfect word that describes the condition of humanity.

Iniquity is a compound word that comes from Latin.

in- ‘not’ + *aequus* ‘equal, just = not just

Iniquity = “not just”

Just = innocent or not guilty

Iniquity = Not Just = Guilty = unrighteous (synonymous)

2 Chronicles 24:20

20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, **Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper?** because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

James 2:10-11

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

In other words, unrighteousness is one who is not just, guilty of violating the Ten Commandments of God.

Unrighteous is the condition humans. All have been guilty in the courts of Heaven.

When you are “under” the law you are condemned to what?

Eternal death. The payment or punishment for sin or breaking the law of God is death – Romans 6:23

Eternal death is the penalty of remaining in an unrighteous condition, guilty.

Jesus is the ONLY one who has legal authority to take you from unrighteous, guilty of breaking the law of God to righteous, not guilty:

Psalms 129:4

4 The LORD *is* righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

Hebrews 4:14-15

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

Philippians 1:11

11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

1 Peter 2:21-24

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The process of going from unrighteous to righteous or guilty to not guilty is known as justification. This is ONLY made possible through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:16-21

- 16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.
- 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
- 18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.
- 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Justification (Greek) dikaiōsis [dik-ah'-yo-sis] = acquittal (from guilt). No longer guilty for violating God's law.

Justification is the process of being made righteous which is a gift from God made possible by His grace.

How is the promise of justification of being made righteous activated in our lives?

Romans 5:1-2

- 1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 By whom also we have access by **faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith = active belief in the Everlasting Covenant of Jesus Christ.

We are not justified by our works alone, but our works in Christ is the evidence of our faith. In other words, righteousness is not possible without the works of turning from sin, confession, and obedience. This is the fruit of our faith.

Galatians 3:6-7

- 6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
- 7 **Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

Romans 4:2-5

- 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

- 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for **righteousness**.
- 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
- 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

James 2:17-18

- 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
- 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James 2:21-24

- 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
- 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
- 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was **imputed unto him for righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God.
- 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Imputed (Greek) = calculated or counted

Imputed Righteousness

The calculation of faith and works of obedience come to the total sum as righteousness. This is imputed righteousness. Let's look at the formula imputed righteousness vs. imputed unrighteousness.

Faith in Christ Humility Repentance Confession + Obedient <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Righteousness	Doubt Pride No Remorse Sinful + Disobedient <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Unrighteousness
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Imputed Righteousness is only made possible through active genuine faith in Christ which bear His works of the everlasting covenant in our lives.

James 2:26

- 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

What about Noah?

Hebrews 11:7

- 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the **righteousness which is by faith**.

Noah believed in the Everlasting Covenant of God by faith. His obedience to God in preparing an ark was the works that was the evidence of his faith in God. Noah turned from sin and clung on to the Promise. Noah was made righteous by faith.

Justification, the process of going from unrighteous to righteous or guilty to not guilty is *instantaneous* when we confess, turn from sin, obey God's Word, keep ALL the commandments of God and cling to the cross of Jesus Christ by faith.

Justification made Righteous = Not Guilty = Acquitted in the courts of Heaven

"Pardon and justification are one and the same thing. Through faith, the believer passes from the position of a rebel, a child of sin and Satan, to the position of a loyal subject of Christ Jesus, not because of an inherent goodness, but because Christ receives him as His child by adoption. The sinner receives the forgiveness of his sins, because these sins are borne by his Substitute and Surety. The Lord speaks to His heavenly Father, saying: "This is My child. I relieve him from the condemnation of death, giving him My life insurance policy--eternal life--because I have taken his place and have suffered for his sins. He is even My beloved son." Thus man, pardoned, and clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, stands faultless before God." - Our High Calling p. 51.2

Justification and Sanctification

Once you are justified by faith, God calls you to a life of holiness by faith known as sanctification.

1 Corinthians 1:30

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Justification puts you on the road of sanctification by faith.

Justification = Righteousness by faith  Sanctification by faith

Those who are on the road of sanctification by faith are still righteous.

Can a person who was once made righteous revert and become unrighteous?

To be continued...

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