



20 Beliefs Every Christian Should Know

Lesson 14 – Justification and Adoption

Key Verse: Romans 8:29–30

“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”

Overview

Mankind’s most basic theological and religious question is: How can sinners come to be in a right relationship with the holy God of the universe? Every other religion in the world has answered this question with some form of good works. They think that being good will get them into heaven. However, the answer to this question is found in the biblical doctrine of justification—being declared righteous before God. Once a person is made right with God, they then become a child of God. This is called adoption. Let’s look at what the Bible has to say about these two amazing doctrines of justification and adoption.

Justification

1. Romans 8:29–30. What is the *ordo salutis* (“order of salvation) in these verses? _____

- a. When does justification happen in the order of salvation? _____

2. Matthew 5:20. What does Jesus say is needed to enter heaven? _____

3. Matthew 5:48. What does God require of man? _____
4. Romans 1:16–17. What is revealed in the gospel? _____
5. Romans 10:3. What were the Jews trying to establish? _____
6. Romans 3:27. How is a man justified? _____
7. Romans 4:5–7. What is credited by faith? _____
8. 2 Corinthians 5:21. What theological term is derived from this verse? _____

a. “He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf,”: _____

b. “so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”: _____

9. Philippians 3:9. What is the result of those who are justified? _____

10. What is the final verdict of those who are justified? _____

The Definition of Justification

“That instantaneous act of God whereby, as a gift of His grace, He imputes to a believing sinner the full and perfect righteousness of Christ through faith alone and legally declares him perfectly righteous in His sight, forgiving the sinner of all unrighteousness and thus delivering him from all condemnation.”¹

“Justification is a legal declaration by God; it is God acting as judge, declaring that an individual is righteous in His sight.”²

“If this article [of justification] stands, the church stands; if this article collapses, the church collapses.”
—Martin Luther

Adoption

1. 1 John 3:10. What does this verse tell us about unbelievers? _____

2. Ephesians 2:1–3. How does Paul identify unbelievers? _____

3. John 1:12. What does God give to those who receive and believe in Christ? _____

4. Ephesians 1:5. What are believers predestined for? _____

5. Romans 8:14. Who are the sons of God led by? _____

¹ John MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus*, pg. 196.

² Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 96.

6. Romans 8:15. How do God's children relate to Him? _____
7. Romans 8:16–17. Who are Christians heirs of? _____
8. Romans 8:23. What are believers eagerly awaiting? _____

“There is a privilege given to those who look to God for their salvation: God makes us members of His family.”
—Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 97.

Application

1. What comfort do you find in the doctrine of justification?
2. What comfort do you find in the doctrine of adoption?
3. What are some blessings that you can think of that are a result of being a child of God?