

21. Justification in Paul's Writings

1. Justification in Paul's Writings

1) Topic Overview

- (1) One of the central themes of Pauline theology is "Justification."
Paul proclaimed that a person is justified not by works of the law but by faith.
 - (2) This doctrine became the core of Luther's Reformation and continues to be a significant theological debate today.
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2. Key Biblical Text

- 1) Romans 3:28– "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."
 - 2) Galatians 2:16– "Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ..."
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3. Theological Meaning

1) Definition of Justification:

A legal declaration of righteousness before God.

2) Role of Faith:

Justification comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law.

3) Nature of Grace:

Justification is a gift of God's grace, not human merit.

4. Justification and the Law

- 1) Paul argues that the Law reveals sin but cannot justify.
 - 2) The Law functions not as a means of justification, but as a mirror to expose human sinfulness.
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5. Contemporary Theological Debat

1) New Perspective on Paul:

(1) Traditional Reformed View):

(2) New Perspective on Paul(e.g., James D.G. Dunn, N.T. Wright):
Reinterprets justification within the context of Jewish covenantal theology.

(3) Traditional Reformed View:

Emphasizes a forensic/legal declaration of righteousness, focusing on personal salvation by faith alone.

6. Conclusion

- 1) Paul's doctrine of justification lies at the heart of the gospel, affirming that humanity cannot save itself and can only be declared righteous by God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2) This truth remains foundational for the Church and every believer today.