

## LESSON 7:

# How Are We Restored to Communion with God?

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## Summary

The work God did in the atonement, the resurrection of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit accomplished our salvation, and the application of that is the basis for changing our status before God and renovating our character to become conformed to the image of Christ. Changing our status is justification and adoption, which will be the focus of this lesson; changing our heart is sanctification and will be addressed in next two lessons.

### REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 11, "Of Justification," WLC 70-71, WSC 33

WCF ch. 12, "Of Adoption," WLC 74, WSC 34

## How Are We Justified Before God? (WCF 11, WLC 70-71, WSC 33)

### Westminster Confession of Faith

#### CHAPTER XI – *Of Justification*

1. Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies <sup>(a)</sup>: not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous, not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them <sup>(b)</sup>, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God <sup>(c)</sup>.

(a) Rom. 8:30; Rom. 3:24; Rom. 5:15-16

(c) John 1:12; Acts 10:43; Gal. 2:16; Acts 13:38-39; Phil.

(b) Rom. 4:5-8; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 3:22-28; Tit. 3:5, 7;

3:9; Eph. 2:7-8; John 6:44-45, 65; Phil. 1:29

Eph. 1:7; Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Rom. 5:17-19

2. Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and His righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification <sup>(a)</sup>; yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but works by love <sup>(b)</sup>.

(a) John 1:12; John 3:18, 36; Rom. 3:28; Rom. 5:1

(b) James 2:17, 22, 26; Gal. 5:6

3. Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are thus justified, and did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to His Father's justice in their behalf <sup>(a)</sup>. Yet, in as much as He was given by the Father for them <sup>(b)</sup>; and His obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead <sup>(c)</sup>; and both freely, not for anything in them; their justification is only of free grace <sup>(d)</sup>; that both the exact justice, and rich grace of God, might be glorified in the justification of sinners <sup>(e)</sup>.

<p>(a) Mark 10:45; Rom. 5:8–10, 18–19; Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5–6; Heb. 1:3; Heb. 10:10, 14; Dan. 9:24, 26; Isa. 52:13–53:12</p> <p>(b) Rom. 8:32; John 3:16</p>	<p>(c) 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 3:17; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 2:6–9; Isa. 53:10–11</p> <p>(d) Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; Zech. 9:9; Isa. 45:21</p> <p>(e) Rom. 3:26; Eph. 2:7</p>
<p>4. God did, from all eternity, decree to justify all the elect <sup>(a)</sup>, and Christ did, in the fullness of time, die for their sins, and rise again for their justification <sup>(b)</sup>; nevertheless, they are not justified, until the Holy Spirit does, in due time, actually apply Christ unto them <sup>(c)</sup>.</p>	
<p>(a) Rom. 8:29–30; Gal. 3:8; 1 Pet. 1:2, 19–20</p>	
<p>(b) Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 2:6; Rom. 4:25</p>	
<p>5. God does continue to forgive the sins of those that are justified <sup>(a)</sup>; and, although they can never fall from the state of justification <sup>(b)</sup>; yet they may, by their sins, fall under God’s fatherly displeasure, and not have the light of His countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance <sup>(c)</sup>.</p>	
<p>(a) Matt. 6:12; 1 John 1:7, 9; 1 John 2:1–2</p>	
<p>(b) Rom. 5:1–5; Rom. 8:30–39; Heb. 10:14; Luke 22:32;</p>	
<p>John 10:28</p>	<p>(c) Ps. 89:30–33; Ps 51; 32:5; Matt. 26:75; Luke 1:20; 1 Cor. 11:30, 32</p>
<p>6. The justification of believers under the Old Testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the New Testament.</p>	
<p>(a) Gal. 3:9, 13–14; Rom. 4:6–8, 22–24; Heb. 13:8</p>	
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<p><b>Question 70</b></p> <p><b>Q. What is justification?</b></p> <p>Justification is an act of God’s free grace unto sinners, <sup>(a)</sup> in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons righteous in his sight; <sup>(b)</sup> not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, <sup>(c)</sup> but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, <sup>(d)</sup> and received by faith alone. <sup>(e)</sup></p> <p>(a) Rom. 3:22, 24–25, Rom. 4:5</p> <p>(b) 2 Cor. 5:19, 21, Rom. 3:22, 24, 25, 27, 28</p> <p>(c) Tit. 3:5, 7, Eph. 1:7</p> <p>(d) Rom. 5:17–19, Rom. 4:6–8</p> <p>(e) Acts 10:43, Gal. 2:16, Phil. 3:9</p>	<p><b>Question 33</b></p> <p><b>Q. What is justification?</b></p> <p>Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, <sup>(a)</sup> and accepts us as righteous in his sight, <sup>(b)</sup> only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, <sup>(c)</sup> and received by faith alone. <sup>(d)</sup></p> <p>(a) Rom. 3:24–25, Rom. 4:6–8</p> <p>(b) 2 Cor. 5:19, 21</p> <p>(c) Rom. 5:17–19</p> <p>(d) Gal. 2:16, Phil. 3:9</p>

## Westminster Larger Catechism

### Question 71

**Q. How is justification an act of God's free grace?**

**A.** Although Christ, by his obedience and death, did make a proper, real, and fully satisfaction to God's justice in the behalf of them that are justified; <sup>(a)</sup> yet in as much as God accepts the satisfaction from a surety, which he might have demanded of them, and did provide this surety, his own only Son, <sup>(b)</sup> imputing his righteousness to them, <sup>(c)</sup> and requiring nothing of them for their justification but faith, <sup>(d)</sup> which also is his gift, <sup>(e)</sup> their justification is to them of free grace. <sup>(f)</sup>

(a) Rom. 5:8–10, 19

(d) Rom. 3:24–25

(b) 1 Tim. 2:5–6, Heb. 10:10, Matt. 20:28, Dan. 9:24, 26,

(e) Eph. 2:8

Isa. 53:4–6, 10–12, Heb. 7:22, Rom. 8:32, 1 Pet. 1:18–19

(f) Eph. 1:7

(c) 2 Cor. 5:21

## What Else Defines Our Status Before God? (WCF 12, WLC 74, WSC 34)

## Westminster Larger Catechism

### CHAPTER XII – *Of Adoption*

1. All those that are justified, God vouchsafes, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption <sup>(a)</sup>: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God <sup>(b)</sup>, have His name put upon them <sup>(c)</sup>, receive the spirit of adoption <sup>(d)</sup>, have access to the throne of grace with boldness <sup>(e)</sup>, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father <sup>(f)</sup>, are pitied <sup>(g)</sup>, protected <sup>(h)</sup>, provided for <sup>(i)</sup>, and chastened by Him as by a Father <sup>(j)</sup>; yet never cast off <sup>(k)</sup>, but sealed to the day of redemption <sup>(l)</sup>, and inherit the promises <sup>(n)</sup>, as heirs of everlasting salvation <sup>(n)</sup>.

(a) Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:4–5

(h) Prov. 14:26

(b) Rom. 8:17; John 1:12

(i) Matt. 6:30, 32; 1 Pet. 5:7

(c) Num. 6:24–26; Jer. 14:9; Amos 9:12; Acts 15:17;  
2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 3:12

(j) Heb. 12:6

(d) Rom. 8:15

(k) Lam. 3:31–32; Ps. 89:30–35

(e) Eph. 3:12; Rom. 5:2; Heb. 4:16

(l) Eph. 4:30

(f) Rom. 8:15–16; Gal. 4:6

(m) Heb. 6:12

(g) Ps. 103:13

(n) 1 Pet. 1:3–4; Heb. 1:14

Westminster Larger Catechism	Westminster Shorter Catechism
<p><b>Question 74</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>What is adoption?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, <sup>(a)</sup> in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, <sup>(b)</sup> whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, <sup>(c)</sup> have his name put upon them, <sup>(d)</sup> the Spirit of his Son given to them, <sup>(e)</sup> are under his fatherly care and dispensations, <sup>(f)</sup> admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory. <sup>(g)</sup></p> <p>(a) 1 John 3:1  (b) Eph. 1:5, Gal. 4:4–5  (c) John 1:12  (d) 2 Cor. 6:18, Rev. 3:12  (e) Gal. 4:6  (f) Ps. 103:13, Prov. 14:26, Matt. 6:32  (g) Heb. 6:12, Rom. 8:17</p>	<p><b>Question 34</b></p> <p><b>Q. <i>What is adoption?</i></b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Adoption is an act of God’ s free grace, <sup>(a)</sup> whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God. <sup>(b)</sup></p> <p>(a) 1 John 3:1  (b) John 1:12, Rom. 8:17</p>