

Christian Beliefs Week 14: Teaching
Ch 14: What are Justification and Adoption?

Intro: Any steps of faith to share?

Today, we are going to learn what happens *after* a person responds in repentance and faith. We will grasp what justification is and how Protestants and Catholics view it differently. We will also talk about the new perspective on justification endorsed by N.T. Wright. We will conclude by learning who is adopted into God's family and how.

What is Justification?

What about when James says in chapter 2:21, 24, and 25 that a person is "justified by works?"

What is true of those who have been justified by faith?

How can God truthfully declare that we have no penalty to pay for sin and that we have the merits of perfect righteousness if we are, in fact, guilty sinners? How can God truthfully declare us to be not guilty but righteous when, in fact, we are unrighteous?

When is the idea of imputing something mentioned in the Bible?

How are we justified?

What is the difference between how Catholics view justification?

Why did God choose faith as the means by which we receive justification?

What is the importance of good works?

What is the “New Perspective on Paul” view of justification?

What is adoption?

What evidence do we see in our lives that we are God’s children?

Discussion:

- What does it mean to be justified? How does it make you feel to know God sees you as righteous?
- How do Catholics and Protestants differ in their beliefs on justification? Do you think that distinction is important?
- What are some specific blessings that come from adoption?