

**1. The grace of God in justification is an unconditional free gift.**

- “The God of all grace” (1 Peter 5:10) wants people saved.
- Grace in salvation: The unconditional free gift of God given to underserving sinners
- Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
- Unconditional: Nothing attached to it that merits or deserves it.
- Romans 11:6 “And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.”
- Works and grace are mutually exclusive. Works OR grace.

**2. The sole means of receiving the free gift of eternal life is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose substitutionary death on the cross fully satisfied the requirement for our justification.**

**a) Faith**

- Eph 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God”
- Faith...
  - ...*is* being persuaded that something is true.
  - ..is **not** works, obedience, commitment, surrender.
- Rom. 4:4-5 “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. <sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness”

**b) Faith and Repentance**

**Two Possible Views:**

- 1) Change of heart [mind] view
- 2) Harmony with God view (nothing to do with salvation – always deals with sin)

**Repentance...**

- 1) ...does not mean that a person is saved by turning from every sin.

**c) Faith and Lordship**

- 1) Lordship Salvation: Faith includes surrender and commitment to Jesus Christ as Master of all of one’s life.
  - Acts 16:31 view (example)
- 2) Lordship Salvation...
  - ...adds to faith as the only condition.
  - ...confuses justification and sanctification.
  - ...makes assurance of salvation impossible.

**3. Faith is a personal response, apart from our works, whereby we are persuaded that the finished work of Jesus Christ has delivered us from our condemnation and guaranteed our eternal life.**

- Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**a) Works cannot be...**

- ...frontloaded to the gospel
  - As obedience
  - As commitment
  - As merit of any kind
- ...backloaded to the Christian life
  - As proof (“the faith that saves is not alone”)
  - As perseverance (“if a person doesn’t persevere, they weren’t saved to begin with”)

**b) We are persuaded regarding...**

- His person – Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- His provision – death for sin, resurrection
- His promise – eternal life to all who believe

**c) Security**

- ...is not on a performance basis (where every other gospel or religion leads you)
- ...is only by grace

**4. Justification is the act of God to declare us righteous when we believe in Jesus Christ alone.**

- Justification: God DECLARES us righteous.
- NOT: God makes us righteous.

**5. Assurance of justification is the birthright of every believer from the moment of faith in Jesus Christ, and is founded upon the testimony of God in His written Word.**

**a) Assurance...**

- ...is the subjective realization of God's guarantee of eternal salvation.
- ...is based on God's Word,
  - Not our performance
  - Not our perseverance

**6. Spiritual growth, which is distinct from justification is God's expectation for every believer; this growth, however, is not necessarily manifested uniformly in every believer.**

**a) Justification versus Sanctification**

<b><i>Justification</i></b>	<b><i>Sanctification</i></b>
Birth	Growth
Initial Salvation	Discipleship
Faith	Obedience
Single condition	Multiple conditions
Instantaneous event	Lifetime process

**b) Can good works prove salvation?**

- No, because good works...
  - ...can characterize non-Christians.
  - ...can be hard to define.
  - ...can be relative.
  - ...can be passive in nature.
  - ...can be unseen.
  - ...can be deceptive.
  - ...can be inconsistent.

**7. The Gospel of Grace should always be presented with such clarity and simplicity that no impression is left that justification requires any step, response, or action in addition to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Clarity (avoid confusing language) and Simplicity**

**a) Faith alone...**

- **Not** works or obedience
- **Not** commitment or surrender
- **Not** repentance from sins
- **Not** public confession
- **Not** baptism
- **Not** faithfulness