



**Living by Faith Part 3—Justification by Faith**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**9.12.2021**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Romans 2:16]**

And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

**[1 Thessalonians 5:9, ESV]**

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**[Romans 5:1]**

Therefore, since **we have been justified through faith**, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Imputed sin and imputed righteousness**

**Impute:** to take something that belongs to someone and assign or ascribe or credit it to someone else / to credit or debit to someone else at the loss of another; to attribute (righteousness, guilt, etc.) to a person or persons vicariously; ascribe as derived from another.

***Today, if you are in Christ, you are in right standing with God.***

**[Isaiah 61:10]**

I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God!  
For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation  
and draped me in a robe of righteousness.

***The miracle of justification is this: it's not by works; it's all by faith in Jesus!***

**[Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV]**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

**[Romans 2:17-20]**

You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, **and you boast about your special relationship with him.** <sup>18</sup> You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. <sup>19</sup> You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. <sup>20</sup> You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth.

**RELIGION = GRACE + \_\_\_\_\_**

***You can't please Him more than being a son or a daughter.***

**[Romans 2:23, 28-29]**

You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. <sup>29</sup> No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, **it is a change of heart produced**

**by the Spirit.** And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

**[Romans 3:19-20]**

Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and **to show that the entire world is guilty before God.** <sup>20</sup> For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. **The law simply shows us how sinful we are.**

***The law was a setup for the Gospel of Jesus Christ: He would fulfill the law, and you wouldn't have to strive to perform for reward.***

**[Romans 3:21-22]**

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

**[Romans 3:27-28]**

<sup>27</sup> Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup> **So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.**

<sup>29</sup> After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. <sup>30</sup> There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

**[Romans 4:1-3]**

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? <sup>2</sup> If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. <sup>3</sup> For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

**[Romans 4:18-24]**

<sup>18</sup> **Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—** believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had

said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” <sup>19</sup> And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

<sup>20</sup> Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. **In fact, his faith grew stronger**, and in this he brought glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. <sup>22</sup> And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. <sup>23</sup> And when God counted him as righteous, **it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded <sup>24</sup> for our benefit, too**, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

#### **[Colossians 2:6]**

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him...

- 1. Live a life of nearness** (intimacy with God).

#### **[James 2:23]**

“Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God.

- 2. Trust the track record of the Promiser.**

*“...fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised”*

- 3. Give glory to God (Speak out, the great things that God is going to do).**

*If you feel stuck in a situation, find out what God says in His Word and begin to give glory to God and declare what He’s going to do in the future.*

#### **[Romans 4:20]**

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but **he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God**,

## **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Visit the Cross of Christ again, and recognize the grace poured out for your life.
2. Hang onto the “only God” promises you have personally heard. Pray and declare God’s faithfulness to fulfill these.

## **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. Why do you think it’s easy for kids to push back, rebel, or resist authority? Where did they learn those behaviors so young, or where did it come from? How do we deal with it?
2. What do you think it means to be in “right standing with God?” When you hear the word “justification,” what is your understanding?
3. What is imputed sin or imputed righteousness? What cost was paid for us to receive this “robe of righteousness” (as illustrated in the message)?
4. When it comes to following Jesus, how does religion try to compete with relationship? How does spiritual pride try to mask genuine love for Jesus? How can we model this justification with our lives?
5. How do you know if you’re a true Christ follower? [Romans 2.23, 28-29] What results if we try to add anything to the grace of God?
6. If justification is by faith, what is the purpose of the law? Why do works still have a place in our lives? What motivations are healthy when responding to imputed righteousness?
7. How do we continue to live our life in Him? What does it mean that we live from fresh faith to faith, glory to glory, and life to life?

8. What does a life of nearness look like? What are some habits to practice when you feel like you don't measure up?
9. For you or your family, how can you trust the track record of the Promiser? What qualifiers should you use to distinguish what is from God and what you can count on?
10. What are some things you can give glory to God about right now?