

"Just and Justifier"

Romans 3:21-26

October 4, 2026

Main idea: The cross reveals God's righteousness because there He justly deals with sin and graciously justifies sinners who trust in Christ.

How can a righteous God justify guilty people and still be righteous himself?

Romans 3:21-26 – 21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. 22 The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. 26 God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

Why do good things happen to bad people?

Romans 3:24 – They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:25 – God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed.

Hebrews 10:4 – For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

"In Christ Alone" – "Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied."

Propitiation - God's righteous wrath against sin is satisfied.

Romans 3:25 – God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed.

Romans 3:26 – God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

The wrath of God was satisfied VS the love of God was magnified.

“God Himself, gave Himself, to save us from Himself.” (John Stott)

The staggering cost of grace is what reveals the staggering love of God.

Saved by grace alone in Christ alone through faith.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
2. Paul begins with “But now” (v. 21), signaling a major transition. What has Paul established about humanity in Romans 1–3 that makes these two words so significant?
3. Why do you think we are more comfortable talking about grace than guilt? What happens to grace if we minimize the seriousness of our sin?
4. Why do good things happen to bad people? What does that question reveal about the way we normally think about what we deserve from God?
5. Which makes you more uncomfortable: the idea of God's wrath or the idea that your own sin deserves His judgment? Why?
6. What does it do to your understanding of God's love to realize that He was under no obligation to save us, yet willingly provided Christ for us? Does that change the way you hear the phrase “Jesus loves you”?
7. God's wrath being satisfied does not diminish His love; it reveals the magnitude of it. How does the cross change the way you think about the relationship between God's holiness, justice, mercy, and love?
8. If your standing before God truly rests on Christ and not on your performance, how does that functionally change your life?
9. Why do we so often feel the need to contribute something of our own to what God has already provided through Christ?