

Oct. 4, 2026
Romans 3:21-26

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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.

Our Problem: How can we as such profoundly corrupt beings ever be made righteous in the sight of God?

Justification by Christ through faith for all freely given.

In our guilty verdict, God's righteousness has been given to us through faith in Christ.

In your guilt and your brokenness and in the midst of defeat—God said you have been made right.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

From judgement to justification.

Paul is showing us that at the cross is where God will meet us—that by Christ's blood we have been given a salvation of presence.

God doesn't choose between grace and justice. He remains just while also becoming the justifier.

Galatians 2:16

and yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified.

Our justification is grounded finally not in my finite worth or work, but in the infinite worth of the righteousness of God.

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. What did God say to you through His Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
2. How do people try to establish their own “righteousness” or prove that they are good enough?
3. How would you define justification? Why is being declared right with God different from simply becoming a better person?
4. How does Jesus’ death on the cross make our justification possible?
5. Where are you currently tempted to live as though you still have something to prove to God?
6. Why do you think receiving salvation through faith can sometimes be harder for us than trying to earn it through effort, morality, religious activity, or achievement?
7. If someone asked you, “Why are you confident that you are right with God?” what would your answer reveal about what you are actually trusting?
8. How does trusting your justification shape the way you live?