

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 11: Justification

I. General Overview of Justification (Par. 1)

- Author: *“Those God effectually calls He also freely justifies”* (Rom. 8:33)
- Recipients: *“Those God effectually calls, He also freely justifies.”* (Rom. 8:30)
- Essence: *“He does this, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins and accounting and accepting them as righteous.”* (Deut. 25:1; Prov. 17:15; Luke 7:29; Rom. 8:33, 34)
- Basis: *“He does this for Christ’s sake alone and not for anything produced in them or done by them.”*
- Method: *“He does not impute faith itself, the act of believing, or any other gospel obedience to them as their righteousness. Instead, He imputes Christ’s active obedience to the whole law and passive obedience in His death as their whole and only righteousness by faith.”* (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Means: *“This faith is not self-generated; it is the gift of God.”* (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8)

II. Instrumental Means of Justification (Pars. 2-4)

- Faith is the exclusive instrument of justification. *“Faith that receives and rests on Christ and His righteousness is the only instrument of justification.”* (Rom. 4:16; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8, 9)
- Sinners are justified by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. *“Yet it does not occur by itself in the person justified, but it is always accompanied by every other saving grace. It is not a dead faith but works through love.”* (James 2:17, 26)

III. Exclusive Ground of Justification (Par. 3) (Rom. 5:8-10, 18; Titus 3:7)

IV. Specified Occasion of Justification (Par. 4) (Eph. 2:3)

V. Practical Outworking of Justification (Par. 5)

- God justifies sinners, even wrt post-conversion sins. *“God continues to forgive the sins of those who are justified”* (1 John 1:9).
- While justified sinners can never fall from the state of grace, they sometimes fall into sin and lose the sense of God’s felt presence and favor. *“Even though they can never fall from a state of justification, they may fall under God’s fatherly displeasure because of their sins. In that condition they will not usually have the light of His face restored to them until they humble themselves, confess their sins, plead for pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.”* (Ps. 51).

VI. Unchanging Need for Justification (Par. 6)

Practical Lessons

- 1) The Urgent Need for Justification
- 2) The Discriminating Nature of Justification
- 3) The Inestimable Blessedness of Justification (Ps. 32:1)