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Roman Catholicism | Justification

Justification

- In justification, moral virtue/righteousness graciously infused into the believer who starts the Christian life through baptism actually righteous before God and then tends to that righteousness by good works and appropriation of the sacraments over the course of their life. Justification is a process that ends in glorification/the beatific vision.
- Merit
 - Because grace is operative in us, we are able to merit eternal life for ourselves, and contribute to meriting it for others, whereby God crowns his own grace in our lives as our due.

2

Roman Catholicism

- The merits of Christ's person and work combined with the supererogatory (i.e., above and beyond what is required for obedience) works of the saints form an inexhaustible "bank" of good works that can be applied to a believer's soul/life to achieve a reduction in the temporal punishment due their sin.
 - This transaction is accomplished by having an indulgence granted by the church.
- Purgatory
 - Purgatory is a post-mortem place of refinement for those who die with venial sins for which they have not made appropriate satisfaction in life. In purgatory, the "gap" between how one started the Christian life (i.e., morally perfect before God through baptism) and how they finished it is addressed and closed so that one can "achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC 1030). Time spent in purgatory is dependent upon how faithfully someone lived and engaged in the sacraments.

3

Roman Catholicism | The Seven Sacrament Economy

Initiation

- Baptism
 - Cleanses of all sin, original and personally committed.
 - Regenerates the heart, justifies and sanctifies
- Confirmation
 - Coming (usually) on the heels of catechesis, confirmation is the point at which believers are "more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit" as they receive the "seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Eucharist
 - Transubstantiation
 - Real sacrifice
 - Atoning/Propitiating

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