

Lecture 33: The Justification Controversy

April 10, 2020

Challenging Controversy: "...the main hinge on which religion turns..." (Calvin 96)

...over salvation, not God and Christ

...over possible addition, not subtraction – *so much Scripture quoted!*

...over technical definitions and descriptions – *beware how terminology changes by its context!*

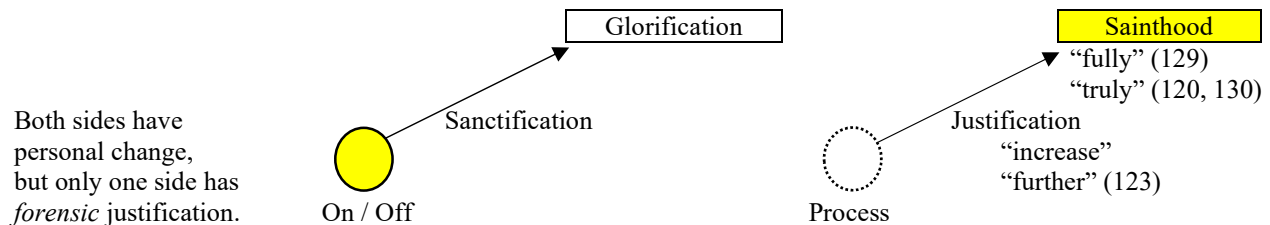
...over the nature of God, "who justifies the ungodly" (Romans 4:5)

Doctrinal Terminology

Justify (δικαιώω)		Grace (χάρις)	
Calvin	Trent	Calvin	Trent
"reckon righteous" (96-7) Luke 7:29 – God Luke 7:35 – wisdom Luke 16:15 – themselves	"make righteous" (120) "...not only are we reputed but we are truly called and are just" (120)	"...the acceptance with which God receives us into his favor as righteous men" (97; cf. 103)	"...disposed through His quickening and helping grace to convert themselves" (117)
Forensic Analogy <i>guilt-free by declaration</i> "...to acquit of guilt him who was accused" (98)	Medical Analogy <i>transform by transfusion</i> "...they contract through [Adam] injustice" (116)	Gift of Acceptance "...instead of a Judge a gracious Father" (96)	Gift of Empowerment 1. Prevenient Grace (117) 2. Conditional Grace: "...cooperation" (120).

Doctrinal Concepts: "...to avoid contention over a word, if we look upon the thing itself..." (Calvin 99)

	Calvin	Trent
Elements	1. Remission of Sins (97) – "pardon" (99) 2. Reckoned Status – "considered...just" (99)	1. Remission of Sins – through baptism (119) 2. Renewed Spirit – faith, hope, and love (120)
Means	Imputation of the Righteousness of Christ (97) "...the obedience of Christ is reckoned to us as if it were our own" (113, Rom. 5:19)	Infusion of the Justice of God (120) "...the love of God is poured forth by the Holy Spirit in the hearts" (Rom. 5:5)
Illustration	Marriage – Union with Christ The Wedding Pronouncement The Transfer of Debt and Riches	Drugs for Athletic Tryouts – Health & Power Medicine to remission, but relapse possible. Performance enhancements for victory (126).



What is the basis of this personal change? When is a person's "Big Day" in court?

Assessment

1. Courtroom Analogy of Salvation
2. Reckon vs. Truly
Abraham: "God...calls into being that which does not exist" (Rom. 4:17).
Union: Christ is reckoned guilty *for us*—we are reckoned righteous *in Him* (2 Cor. 5:14, 21).
3. Personal Assurance vs. Presumption and Antinomian License
Union with Christ brings both *justification* and *sanctification* (1 Cor. 1:30).
The conditions are certain in Christ for every believer—sealed and led by the Holy Spirit (Ph. 1:6; 2:13).
Immediate Presence in Prayer and in Death
4. Closure vs. Open Event
Atonement—Justification—Assurance ←(all have the same shape)
Jesus to the Prostitute: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luke 7:50).

Source: Calvin, John and Sadoletto, Jacopo. *A Reformation Debate*. Ed. John C. Olin. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1966.