

Study Series: All of Grace

Author: Charles Spurgeon

 Lesson Title: “Accomplishing Justification” (pp. 18-30)

Session 2

March 13, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God alone accomplishes justification and does so without violating His holy, righteous standards.

Focus on this goal: To help adults receive God’s justification with confidence

Key Bible Passage:Romans 3:21-26; 8:33

Before the Session

Label the left side of the board, My Responsibility and the right side, Not My Responsibility*.* (Steps 1 and 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Write each of the following on a separate index card: Getting to work on time; Raising a Puppy; Meeting a friend for coffee; Preparing for retirement.

Explain: Today we’ll look at some common situations most of us will face. Let’s consider things we have responsibility for in each situation as well as things that are not our responsibility. As a group, create each list, recording them on the board. (For example, personal responsibility for getting to work on time would include setting an alarm and leaving in time. A worker would not necessarily be responsible for car trouble, traffic, etc.)

Explain that today’s session looks at God’s responsibility as well as our responsibility in justification.

Step 2. “It Is God That Justifieth,” Part 1

Invite a volunteer to recite Romans 4:5 from last week’s session. Invite a few volunteers to read Romans 8:33 from different translations.

Ask: What is similar about these two verses? How is the emphasis different? Explain that Romans 4:5 points that God justifies the ungodly, while Romans 8:33 stresses that God (alone) justifies.

Use Day One content (pp. 18-20), particularly the paragraph (pp.18-19) beginning, “In the first place, …” to point out that only God would even consider justifying the ungodly. Briefly recount Saul’s sinful past and amazement at justification as an example.

Invite a volunteer to read the superscription (subtitle or introduction) to Psalm 51 as well as verse 4 from his/her Bible. Say: God alone would ever consider justifying a sinner, and God alone has the prerogative to forgive, for it is against Him we sin.

Step 3. “It Is God That Justifieth,” Part 2

Invite a volunteer to read Luke 15:11-24. Point out that this passage paints a perfect picture of our justification: the son had not lived righteously, had not sought forgiveness, and didn’t deserve his father’s acceptance. Yet the father restored him to sonship anyway.

Use Day Two content (pp. 20-22) to help learners understand God does the same to us, justifying us not because we deserve it, but because of His grace.

Ask: What was the only thing the prodigal son did toward his justification? (He turned to his father.)

Use the Day Two opening paragraph (p. 20) to point to God’s ability to not only forgive, but to forgive perfectly.

Step 4. “It Is God That Justifieth,” Part 3

Read the author’s own testimony to finding confidence in his justification before God (Day Three, p. 23, second paragraph, beginning at, “I was myself stricken,” and continuing as far as you wish).

Say: The author was more than confident in his justification because he was confident in the God who did the justifying.

Encourage learners to dig deeply into their Bibles, carefully relying upon God’s Word and His character as it is revealed in the Bible.

Invite volunteers to share their response to activity 2 (p. 24).

Step 5. Just and the Justifier, Part 1

Prompt discussion of the author’s question “How can He [God] be just and yet the justifier?” (p. 25).

Invite a volunteer to read Romans 3:21-26. Ask: According to this passage, what role does Jesus play in our justification?

Drive home the facts that 1) God is perfectly just, 2) we are unworthy sinners, but 3) Jesus died so we could be righteous. Use the explanation found in the third paragraph of Day Four (pp. 25-26) as support.

Say: This is why the cross of Christ is the good news: without Him, we could never, never be right with God.

Step 6. Just and the Justifier, Part 2

Erase the board from the activity in Step 1.

Say: These wonderful, deep truths can get lost in these beautiful words. Let’s boil the author’s teachings down into short sentences. Together, go through the first two Day Five paragraphs (pp. 26-27), looking at the questions asked and considering the simplest answers. (For example, the first question asks, “Why did He suffer …?” (p. 26). The answer might be stated, “Jesus paid our penalty.”)

Invite responses and write them on the board. Look back over all you wrote and ask: How do we respond to this? If God put our sin on His Son and the Son took our guilt to die with Him on the cross, how should we respond every day of our lives?

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Say: Today’s session from All of Grace answers the question: Have I sinned so severely that God cannot or will not take away my sin? We have seen that God justifies, but have we left the responsibility in His hands?

Close by reading the final paragraph of Day Five (p. 28). Invite learners to literally stand with you, join hands, and speak aloud the truths they will take away from today’s session.

Close in prayer.

