

Series: The Gospel of Freedom and the Things That Hinder

Message: "The Justification Antidote"

Romans 5:1-9

Central Thought: *Justification frees us from the performance trap by exchanging Jesus' performance for ours.*

- 1) How **important** is justification in the Gospel?
 - Justification = the Gospel? Romans 3:28; 8:33; 4:5; Galatians 2:16; 5:4S; Titus 3:7
 - Justification is God's antidote to the performance trap because it is (part of) the **performance** of Jesus.
- 2) What does justification mean? *Being...*
 - Forgiven for past, present and future **sin**.
Psalm 103:11-12
 - **Declared** righteous before God.
2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Adopted as sons and daughters of **God**.
John 1:12
 - Seated with Christ in a position of authority over the **dark** kingdom. Ephesians 2:6
 - Given the Holy Spirit as a **guarantee** of God's acceptance. 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:14
 - Assured of the removal of our sin **nature** forever. 1 John 3:1-3; Philippians 3:20-21
- 3) How does justification counter the lies of the performance trap?
 - It **replaces** our inconsistent achievements with Christ's perfect record.
 - **Imputed** righteousness – bearing Jesus' record and a sinful nature.
 - **Imparted** righteousness – bearing Jesus' record and no sinful nature.
 - Success and failure are **worthless** as measurements of identity / value to God.
 - Justification allows us to deal with successes and failures in **healthful** ways.
 - Success and failure matter, but they cannot and must never **define** us.
 - Successes can be seen in the light of Christ's death and resurrection.
 - Failures (and criticism for failures) can be faced as a **tool** submitted to God.

- 4) How do we live out this truth? Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38
 - **Identify** the areas where the performance trap exists.
 - **Renounce** the lies as a regular discipline.
 - **Learn** the truth of identity in Christ (see insert in bulletin).
 - **Announce** this truth as a regular discipline.
 - Edify brothers and sisters in Christ with these same **truths**. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Word bank: *announce, dark, declared, define, God, guarantee, healthful, identify, imparted, important, imputed, learn, nature, performance, renounce, replaces, sin, tool, truths, worthless*

For LIFE Groups and personal reflection

- 1) What would it sound like to frame our "life-talk" in terms of Jesus – to talk about our lives in terms of where Jesus is at work and in terms of Jesus' Kingdom purpose in all things?
- 2) When is it easiest for you to believe that you are valuable to Jesus?
When is it most difficult?
- 3) How can rejoicing in our successes be dangerous?
How can rejoicing in our successes build us in faith?
- 4) How can lamenting our failures be dangerous?
How can failures be a part of spiritual growth?

Resource – Robert McGee, [The Search for Significance](#).

Resource – Bobb Biehl, [Why You Do What You Do](#).