

## Benefits of Justification

Hate is wrong. Hate is a sin. Christians have no right to engage in hatred. How many time have I said this already? I will keep on saying it. You might ask, “What is the remedy for hatred?” For the Christian it is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

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**Ephesians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Ephesians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

Just as Jesus and the apostles had “credentials” of healing and miracles, etc., so the Christian has a credential: love.

**John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

**John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

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This is not a human effort to love everybody. It is fruit produced by the Holy Spirit when a believer depends upon the power of the Holy Spirit. As Herman says, Love sees a need...Love attempts to fill that need.

Now for today's lesson.

There are so many topics woven together in chapter five that I am going to have to approach this lesson differently. Rather than go word by word, except where I need to, let me take slices of issues that can illuminate some of the complexities of Paul's arguments. Dr. Thomas Constable, in his *Dr. Constable's Notes on Romans*, suggests there are five benefits of justification in Romans 5:1-5.

### Benefits of Justification (Constable)<sup>1</sup>

1. Justification by God
2. Peace with God
3. Access/Introduction to God's grace
4. Hope of God's glory
5. Indwelling of God (the Holy Spirit)

**Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified (#1) by faith, we have peace with God (#2) through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Romans 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction (#3) by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God (#4).**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://soniclight.com/tcon/notes/pdf/romans.pdf> pages 107-110

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**Romans 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;**

**Romans 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;**

**Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit (#5) who was given to us.**

1. **Justification by God.** We dealt briefly with justification previously. This is a declaration by God that he has imputed His righteousness to a believer. It is in response to faith expressed in Jesus Christ as Savior. It is a solution to one of the items in the barrier between man and God: sin, righteousness and life. The answers to each are imputations. On the cross, all the sins of the world were imputed to Jesus and judged by God. As a result, God is free to impute life and righteousness to a person who believes in Jesus. It is only imputed as a result of the expression of faith. God cannot impute life and righteousness to an unbeliever apart from faith. If He did, that would pervert His righteousness. Justification is the reason for the other benefits. But it is a benefit that starts the cavalcade of benefits.
2. **Peace with God.** This was a topic from last week. There are two kinds of peace related between believer and God: peace with God and peace of God. We are only dealing with the first item, peace with God. Prior to trusting on Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were enemies of the cross. In the Angelic Conflict, unbelievers are on Satan's defense team. Satan's defense is in reference to his appeal trial. He has been condemned to the Lake of Fire for his sinful revolt

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against God. Salvation has been provided for each and every believer. But, this salvation is only available to those who place their trust in Jesus Christ in a point of time. Humans cannot earn salvation. Jesus paid the penalty. But God can only allow those who trust Him to be imputed with the necessary life and righteousness for salvation. Anything else other than faith would violate God's character. But now that we have life and righteousness in Christ, there is a whole panoply of benefits/blessings available to us.

3. **Access to God's grace.** The word for "access" is also translated as "introduction." When I think of access, I think of position in Christ which gives access to the throne room of God the Father. While that is true, this access is "through whom (our Lord Jesus Christ) we have (perfect active indicative) access (or introduction) into this grace." Actually, the Greek is "into the grace this." The few commentators on Romans that I read didn't help me understand what "this" grace is.

We can start by repeating R. B. Thieme Jr.'s description of grace, "all that God is able to do based upon the work of Jesus on the cross." So, as I understand it, grace is not just a static force. It is a dynamic. Some believers who have had a wonderful day having seen God working in their lives have said something like, "God graced me out today." They make grace into a verb. God is working. They call that work, which is based upon Jesus' work on the cross, "grace."

4. **Hope of God's glory.** As mentioned in a previous lesson on dispensations, the purpose of history is to glorify God. Only God has this glory which He shares with His Son who shares it with believers who are in Jesus Christ, positional truth.

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**5. Indwelling of God (the Holy Spirit).**

Herman has some points on the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is not the filling of the Holy Spirit. I give Herman's outline. For a full account of this doctrine see SVBC Ephesians lesson 51<sup>2</sup>.

- I. The teaching of the indwelling of the Spirit in the Church Age is never even mentioned in the Old Testament. This is presented in the Church Age in Romans 8:9; Galatians 3:2; 4:6; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
- II. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also called by one other name in the Bible: *anointing*. 1 John 2:20, 27.
- III. Jesus Christ, Himself, gives the prophecy of the *Indwelling of the Holy Spirit for the Church Age* in John 7:37-39 and John 14:16-17. In Ephesians 1:13 we have the promise of the Holy Spirit. In John chapter 14, Jesus Christ gave a promise of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit for believers in this age.
- IV. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit must be distinguished from the Filling of the Spirit. The Indwelling occurs at the point of salvation and never changes. The Filling of the Holy Spirit is commanded in Ephesians 5:18 and lost through sin, Ephesians 4:30. But whether you lose the filling of the Spirit or not, you never lose the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Never forget this, many erroneously like to claim, you can lose your salvation which of course would mean that you also lose the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But, the Bible tells us we are promised by God and Jesus Christ our Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- V. What is the difference between the filling of the Holy Spirit and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit? The fact is that we can lose the

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Ephesians/notes/2021-08-01Sunday\\_Morning.pdf](https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Ephesians/notes/2021-08-01Sunday_Morning.pdf)

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Filling of the Holy Spirit but we cannot lose the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the seal of every believer. Ephesians 1:13 This is why carnal Christians will not lose the Holy Spirit nor lose their salvation. We have the Holy Spirit to teach the Word of God, to fulfill the divine 9 of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

- VI. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit must be distinguished from the indwelling of Christ. In the Church Age every believer is indwelt by Jesus Christ, every believer is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. These must be distinguished. Christ indwells the believer for the purpose of fellowship.
- VII. The function or purpose of the Holy Spirit is there to learn the Word of God and remember the Word of God through your life. (John 14:26)
- VIII. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age is necessary because of the intensification of the Angelic Conflict John 7:37-39.

Something that Dr. Constable does not say a lot about is what is contained in verses 3 & 4. The writers of Scripture mention over and over again that we should not fear tribulations. Robby Dean said that our current time on earth is like boot camp preparation for the Millennium. Or the story I repeat, the college student that asked a pastor how to grow and mature quickly in the Christian life: ask for suffering. Now I am not suggesting you ask for suffering. As you study and use Bible promises, God will provide the challenges. These challenges are something we should expect. We see all the great people listed in the Hebrews chapter 11 faith hall of fame had many challenges. They also had sin natures and failed. Repeatedly. But they continued to move forward in their lives and succeeded in using faith to mature in the midst of challenges.

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Various pastors may have voluminous lists of reasons for suffering. Perhaps it is an oversimplification, but there are two categories of suffering: you are out of fellowship and sinning or you are in fellowship and God is using circumstances to help you mature and grow in grace. If you have been a Christian for a while, you are sure to know James chapter 1.

**James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,**

**James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (also translated as patience).**

**James 1:4 And let endurance (also translated as patience) have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

**Hebrews 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;**

**Hebrews 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;**

**Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”**

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**Hebrews 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?**

**Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.**

**Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?**

**Hebrews 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.**

**Hebrews 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**

**1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;**

**1 Peter 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so**



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**that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.**

**1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.**

**1 Peter 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;**

**1 Peter 4:16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.**

Since Paul mentions access to God's grace, I copied some material from Herman on our position in Christ. The Old Testament believers did not have position in Christ. We have so many blessings that it is sometimes hard to remember the entire list. So as a refresher, here are Herman's notes<sup>3</sup>.

Our position in Christ is soundly called by R.B. Thieme Jr., Positional Truth.

### ***Positioned in Christ***

1. Position in Christ is unique to the Church Age believer. In no other dispensation is there such a place as being *in Christ*. The moment one believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, he does not become a member of the race or nation of Israel. God the Holy Spirit enters him into union with Christ forever. You cannot lose your position in Jesus Christ. You did nothing to put yourself

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Ephesians/notes/2019-11-17Sunday\\_Morning.pdf](https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Ephesians/notes/2019-11-17Sunday_Morning.pdf)

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into Christ. You can do nothing to take yourself out of union with Christ. It is eternally yours...due to the Faithfulness of God.

2. Means of Positioned in Christ: Non-meritorious faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior.
3. Mechanics of Position in Christ is by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:5; John 17:21-22; 14:20 and chapter 15; 1 Corinthians 12:13.
4. Characteristics of Position in Christ:
  - a. Not an experience, or emotional, nor ecstasies.
  - b. Not progressive. It cannot be improved.
  - c. Not related to human merit or works or any performance, it is by grace.
  - d. Eternal in nature; neither God nor angels nor man can change it.
  - e. Obtained in total at the point of belief in Jesus as Savior.
5. Our Position in Christ explains election and predestination, two doctrines that many believers are so confused about. We will study them in Ephesians chapter 1. Both are defined and understood by the believer's position in Christ. Believers are elected and predestined *in Christ*. No one is elected or predestined outside of Jesus Christ. Every believer shares the election of Jesus Christ. When you are put in Christ, then you share the election of Christ and share the predestination of Jesus Christ.
6. Positioned in Christ also clarifies sanctification. Ephesians 1:3-6.

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7. (One that legalists resent) Every believer—carnal, sinful, or spiritual is positioned in Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 30. Here, in Christ is true equality of all believers.
8. Our being imputed with perfect Righteousness is from our Position in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30.
9. Our being in Christ protects every believer from Divine Judgment in eternity: Romans 8:1. No, your sins will not find you out! You are in Christ. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior is imputed with perfect Righteousness which means no believer will be at the Last Judgment.
10. Being in Christ qualifies every believer to live with God forever. 1 John 5:11-12. Therefore, this guarantees Eternal-Security. Romans 8:38-39.
11. Because you are in Christ, every believer shares many things with Christ.
  - a. We share the life of Christ: eternal life. 1 John 5:11-12.
  - b. We share the perfect righteousness of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  - c. We share the election of Christ. Ephesians 1:4.
  - d. We share the destiny of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5.
  - e. We share the heritage of Christ. 1 Peter 1:4-5.
  - f. We share the sanctification of Christ 1 Corinthians 1:2; John 17:17-19 and Hebrews 10:14.
  - g. We share the Priesthood of Jesus Christ—I am so sorry that this is not all that important to believers—that we share the

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Priesthood of Christ. If you were of Jewish background, this would be a major issue with you, that you are a priest after the order of Jesus Christ which is above the priesthood order of the Levites.

There is just so much involved in your sharing the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-9.

- h. Christ is the Son of God and being in Christ means we share His Sonship.
  - i. Christ is King and therefore we share His kingdom. 2 Peter 1:11.
12. Many aspects of our lives today here on earth are from our position in Christ.
- a. Our Christian liberty is founded on our being in Christ. Galatians chapter 2.
  - b. Blessings in time are not dependent on our performance but are dependent upon our position in Christ. Ephesians. 1:3.
13. We are identified with Jesus Christ in His death. Colossians 2:12.
14. We are identified with Christ in His Resurrection. Colossians 2:12.

Being identified with Jesus Christ in His death means that in our daily lives we do not have to be under the power and control of our Inherited Sin Nature ...dead to us. Every time we sin, we resurrect this dead sin nature.

Being identified with Jesus Christ in His Resurrection defines our Spiritual life, Spiritual freedom, and Spiritual liberty!

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15. Positional Truth is not known experientially, it is known only through the Word of God.
16. And never forget, all these blessings were prepared by God in Eternity Past and were obtained in total at the moment of salvation.

***Summarizing:***

At the point of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, God the Father gave you 34 blessings. One of them is that God the Holy Spirit baptizes or places you *in Christ*.

This means you are a new creation in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17. This establishes Eternal Fellowship with Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Your eternal position in Christ establishes eternal fellowship, which is the pattern of your Temporal fellowship with the Godhead and with One Another.

Every born-again believer has the same equal spiritual privileges as any other believer. Christ in you and you in Christ. John 14:20.

Add to this that the Holy Spirit indwells every one of you! Every one of you are your own priest. This means you represent yourselves before God the Father—in prayer, worship. And every believer in Christ has the same purpose: to glorify God the Father and His Son Jesus the Christ in the Holy Spirit. To be a witness of Jesus Christ during your time here on earth, to be an Ambassador for Christ.