

Reconciled, Justified, Sanctified

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Rom. 6:17-18

We all have sinned. Adam and Eve brought sin into the world (Gen. 3).

Since then all have sinned.

- Rom. 3:10, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”
- Rom. 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,”

We are reconciled

Why we need to be reconciled to God.

Because sin separates one from God. John 9:31, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

The wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God in hell). Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

How is reconciliation possible?

Sin keeps one away from God. We need to get rid of sin.

In our conversion we rid ourselves of sin.

We are baptized for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

We crucify the old man of sin, bury him in baptism, and bring up the new spiritual man in Christ. Rom. 6:1-6, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our

old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Paul makes it plain that in this process we are made free from sin.

Rom. 6:17-18, *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."*

With sin gone, God will embrace us — we are reconciled to God.

We are justified

Dikaioo (dik-ah-yo-o) Greek, Strong's # 1344 — to make valid, to absolve, to vindicate, to set right.

The *"justified"* believer is declared to be righteous in Jesus Christ, and is accepted as being in His righteousness. *"Justification"* implies that God's treatment of the sinner is as if he had never sinned now that he is regarded as being personally righteous in Jesus Christ.

We are justified by the grace of God. Rom. 3:24, *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"*

One must obey grace. Titus 2:11-12, *"For the **grace of God that bringeth salvation** hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world,"*

With sin gone we are reconciled to God and justified — made right.

- Rom. 5:1, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*
- Rom. 5:9, *"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*
- 1 Cor. 6:11, *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."*

In this restoration there is pardon from our sins. We are now ready to serve.

We are sanctified

Sanctification (Hagiasmos; Greek; Strong's # 38) — the activity of the Holy Spirit to set men apart unto salvation and enabling him to be holy even as God is holy.

When Christ sanctified Himself (John 17:19), He means that he consecrated Himself to His work as Redeemer.

John 17:19, *“And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”*

The word “saint” comes from the same root and means “a sanctified one” — one who belongs to Christ.

This formal meaning appears in 1 Cor. 7:12-14, where the unbelieving husband is said to be sanctified by the wife, meaning not that he is different in moral character, but stands in a certain privileged relation to God.

1 Cor. 7:12-14, *“But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”*

Now that we belong to Christ we are to live to Him.

- Eph 4:1, *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,”*
- Col 3:1-4, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*
- 1 Thess. 5:10, *“Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”*

Conclusion

Have you been sanctified through baptism? The following are the steps necessary to be reconciled to God and to be justified by Jesus Christ for that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life,

or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been*

planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

