

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification,¹ adoption,² sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.³

1. Rom. 8:30. 2. Eph. 1:5. 3. 1 Cor. 1:30; 1 Cor. 6:11.

Q 70. What is justification?

A Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners,¹ in which he pardoneth all their sins, accepteth and accounteth their persons righteous in his sight;² not for anything wrought in them, or done by them,³ but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them,⁴ and received by faith alone.⁵

1. Rom. 3:22, 24–25; Rom. 4:5. 2. Jer. 23:6; Rom. 4:6–8; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 3:22, 24–25, 27–28. 3. Titus 3:5, 7; Eph. 1:7. 4. Rom. 4:6–8, 11; Rom. 5:17–19. 5. Acts 10:43; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9.

Q 71. How is justification an act of God's free grace?

A Although Christ, by his obedience and death, did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in the behalf of them that are justified;¹ yet inasmuch as God accepteth the satisfaction from a surety, which he might have demanded of them, and did provide this surety, his own only Son,² imputing his righteousness to them,³ and requiring nothing of them for their justification but faith,⁴ which also is his gift,⁵ their justification is to them of free grace.⁶

1. Rom. 5:8–10, 19. 2. 1 Tim. 2:5–6; Heb. 10:10; Matt. 20:28; Dan. 9:24, 26; Isa. 53:4–6, 10–12; Heb. 7:22; Rom. 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:18–19. 3. 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:6, 11. 4. Rom. 3:24–25. 5. Eph. 2:8. 6. Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:24–25.

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