

# Gospel Identity

## Session 3 – God Makes It Right.

### Serge

Paul writes in **Romans 8:1**, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Part of the ongoing struggle in Christian life is not only continually believing this truth, but living as if we did. We agree that we are justified by faith; however, we often struggled to connect this to our daily lives – as we relate to our family, as we speak to others, or as we go about our work.

1. Describe a time when you did something pretty great, but no one noticed or cared? How did that make you feel?
2. Why can it be so hard to do something good without having it acknowledged?

Read Genesis **4:3-16**, Then discuss the following question.

3. Outwardly it appears as if both Cain and Abel did the right thing? Why do you think God only approved of Abel’s offering?
4. Did Cain try to justify his actions here to God?

Read Romans **4:1-8** and Romans **5:12-21**, then discuss the following questions.

5. According to these passages what blessings are ours now, thanks to Jesus?
6. Can you describe justification by faith?
7. What wrong ways do people justify themselves, to get God’s gift of forgiveness?

“The world runs by ungrace. Everything depends on what I do...Jesus’ kingdom depends on another way, one that depends not on our performance but his own. We do not have to achieve but merely follow. He has already earned for us the costly victory of God’s acceptance.”

-Philip Yancey

We need to remember in everything we do that when we place ourselves in the position of strength and righteousness we separate ourselves from grace, the spirit's power and Jesus’ gift.

- 8. Adding to question 1 – Have you ever done something pretty great, but expected yourself to look better, smarter, wiser, funnier, or even holier??**
  
- 9. Have you ever, or ever seen someone else add to their reputation by tearing someone else’s down?**

Read Isaiah **53:1-12**, then discuss the following questions.

- 10. What do Jesus’ actions imply about our desire to justify ourselves?**
  
- 11. What do Jesus’ actions imply about how to respond when others justify themselves? (how should we treat them?)**

Think about your answers today. What form of self-justification comes out first? Gossip, complaining, criticism, boasting, blame shifting, self-defense, lying? Instead of a weekly challenge, let’s take some time to think about the self-justifications that we deal with regularly. Talk about them amongst your group and then pray for each other.

If you think you don’t ever have self-justifications problems in your life, come and see Shawn.

**Pray for each other.**