

## ***Of Justification, Part 5 (Psalm 32:5)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 11, Paragraphs 5-6*

### **Doctrine**

*Simul Justus et Peccator (Paragraph 5)*

- Those who are justified will still, in their flesh, **sin** against God and yeild to the temptations of the flesh, the world and the devil, which ever rage against the believer.
- Those who are united to Christ will not and can never **fall** from the state of justification (Jn. 10:28).
- Christians are at the same time **just** and **sinner**s (*simul justus et peccator*) – having the righteousness of Christ imputed to them through faith, yet still living in and wrestling with the world.
- This is a glorious and comforting **mystery** of salvation.
- This is a **biblical** doctrine, meaning that it is clear in Scriptures.
- This is a **logical** doctrine, because the righteousness of Christ is imputed, not infused, and is therefore extrinsic not intrinsic.
- Such confidence of salvation does not provide license to **sin**.
- By their sins, Christians fall under God's fatherly **displeasure**; experiencing His discipline, though they will not face the fullness of His wrath, which was borne by Christ on our behalf.
- While under the discipline of the Lord, they usually do not have the light of His countenance restored to them until they humble themselves, **confess** their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.
- 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John i.9)

*Justification Through Redemption History (Paragraph 6)*

- Justification in the Old and New Testament has the same **initiator** – the condescending, covenantal grace of God (Isa. 55:3).
- Justification in the Old and New Testament has the same **grounds** – the imputed righteousness of Christ (Heb. 10:4).
- Justification in the Old and New Testament has the same **means** – through faith alone (Rom. 3:22-24).
- The justification of believers under the Old Testament was, in all these respects, one and the **same** with the justification of believers under the New Testament (Gal. 3:7-9).
- Redemption History is united and focused in the **cross** of Christ, where all the promises of Israel find their fulfillment and all our eternal hope is secured (2 Cor. 1:20).

### **Application**

- 1) **Faith** in Christ alone: Justification is not just a 'head' doctrine, but also a 'heart' doctrine.
- 2) **Confession** of Sin: We must confess our sin to the Lord.
- 3) **Ongoing** Renewal of Faith and Repentance: This is neither a re-salvation, nor a re-dedication, but the ongoing effects of our union with Christ in sanctification and maturing as believers.
- 4) **Unified** Reading of Scripture: Interpreting the Old Testament in light of the fullness of revelation, and not putting ourselves back under the veil of the Old Covenant.
- 5) **Guarding** of the Doctrine of Justification: Through Confession, Apologetic, and Proclamation.