

The Heart of the Gospel

Background: How Paul gets to the true gospel in Galatians...

Big idea: Justification is the heart of the gospel because it undoes human works and exalts God's grace—so receive it and do not depart from it.

Four truths about justification

I. Justification is by faith alone (vv. 15-16)

Conversation continued

Presenting issue / underlying issue

What is justification?

- *Romans 5:16*
- *Definition: a _____ act by which one is declared to be righteous*

Clarity through repetition

Application: not just a Jewish problem

II. Justification exposes our sin (vv. 17-18)

Controversial questions

III. Justification frees us from law (vv. 19-20)

Death to law!

Life to God, living to God!

Application: not just a moral code

IV. Justification exalts God's grace (v. 21)

What's really at stake

The realization

Conclusion:

Application 1: "on my worst days of sin and failure/on my best days of victory and usefulness"

Application 2: "not an art that can be completely learned"

Praxis:

1. What is justification? What are "works of the law"? What Scriptures help us understand these ideas?
2. What are some possible fleshly responses to our "worst days of sin and failure"? What about our "best days of victory and usefulness"? What are some possible Spirit-filled responses to these extremes?
3. What are some practical actions we can take to keep ourselves from becoming dull to or taking for granted the doctrine of justification?