

Justification and Sanctification: What is the difference?

1. Introduction:

Scenario 1: In this world you are called to be a law abiding citizen. If you are on trial for murder; you have admitted your guilt and you've asked for forgiveness – conceivably, a person may forgive you, but being forgiven does not remove your guilt. **You are still guilty!** You committed the crime, the jury convicted, and the judge sentenced you to death. (*That is the world's judicial system – there's no way out*) You **stand** condemned.

Scenario 2: *In this life you are accountable to God.* You have broken God's laws – you are guilty and you **stand** condemned. Romans 3:19-20 and Galatians 2:16 tell us that **God's law** cannot justify us; the law can only condemn us. Before we get saved, each of us **stand guilty** before God and the sentence is death.

Slide - Acts 13:38-39

The difference: With world system: no way out, condemned, death sentence. With God: when a guilty sinner repents and trusts in Jesus by faith, God **forgives** him; He also **justifies** him –no longer condemned.

2. Justification:

- a. **What is it?** Justification is an **act of God** where **He declares** a sinner righteous because of his/her faith in Jesus Christ. We are declared *not guilty*, and we can never be called *guilty* again! Satan may accuse us! Our flesh may accuse us, but God has justified us, and declared us righteous **because of Jesus's work on the cross. We now stand righteous before God in Jesus Christ!**

An easy way to look at justification is that God see us as *"Just as if we have never sinned"*. In justification, there are no degrees.

- b. **When and how does it happen?** It is the immediate result of salvation.
- i. **Rom. 5:12-21 – How it was possible.... Foundation of our justification.**
 1. Both Adam & Jesus **did something** that affected all mankind.
 2. Both have a reign: **Death** reigns from Adam's sin. **Life** reigns through Jesus's work.
 3. Adam's sin brought **condemnation**. Jesus's act of righteousness brought **salvation and justification**.
 4. Two words: **Much more...**
 - a. In Jesus, we have gained **much more** than we ever lost in Adam.
 - ii. **Slide** – Wiersbe
 - iii. Romans 8:1

Because of Jesus' work on the cross, when you get saved, you are no longer condemned. You are free and legally exonerated from all guilt. **You are justified – it is just like we never sinned!**

3. But, how can this be? We still sin.

It is important to understand that Justification **does not make us** righteous. Justification **declares** us righteous. Affects our standing before God...we stand in grace before God. We still sin. And that is where sanctification comes in.

4. Sanctification:

- a. **What is it?** Sanctification is the continual process where God is **making** us righteous. It is the process of **becoming Christlike** and growing in holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification means that we are set apart for God's use. (Rom 8:29)

- b. **When does it happen?** 2 Thess. 2:13 *God chose us through salvation for sanctification by the Spirit. Three aspects of sanctification.*
- i. **At salvation** set apart as new creation – 2 Cor. 5:17. When you are saved and justified, God sets you apart for His use.

Positional sanctification. (Heb. 10:10) Our position before God has changed forever. We are now citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20) set apart for God's exclusive use. One-time thing that changes our heart. New creation. Dead to sin. Members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). No longer love our sin. **(Rom 6:22)...slaves to righteousness. Once this happens at salvation, we begin a process of Progressive sanctification.**

- ii. **Daily lifelong process:** (Basically Rom 6-8). *Purification process that is never complete this side of heaven!*

This is the work of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), but also requires our willing participation (Rom 8:13; Phil 2:12) and obedience. Philippians 2:12; 2 Timothy 4:7 – exercise yourself toward godliness. *There must be willing participation.* There should be continual progress in this sanctification process.

How does this work? We are sanctified daily (1) as we confess our sins, (2) as we read and heed God's word, (3) as we obey the conviction and lead of the Holy Spirit, (4) as we are in constant prayer, (5) as we count if joy through the trials (James 1:2-4), (6) a willingness to present yourselves to God as a living sacrifice and be transformed (Rom 12:1), and (7) as we desire to practice Christlikeness. (John 13:10; Rom 6:22; Rom 8:29). **2 Cor. 3:18 explains well. (Slide) - Varying degrees**

- iii. **Complete/Final Sanctification Phil 1:6 – He who has begun a good work in you will complete it!**

We will be completely sanctified when we see Him face to face: At death, we will be w/ Jesus and there will be no sin. **At the rapture we get our glorified bodies** and Phil 3:21 – transformed & conformed to His glorious body; 1 John 3:2. And it is this hope in His imminent return, as we yearn for our home in heaven that should **motivate us to be willing participants in this sanctification process** and to **willingly** allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to be conformed to the image of Jesus.

5. Summary:

- Slide**
- a. **Justification** is something that God does at salvation. We have no part in it – we are simply declared righteous! That declaration can never be repealed. **Justification never changes.** God sees us just as if we have never sinned at all!
 - b. **Sanctification** is also something God does at salvation and it is a daily process; throughout our lives, He is making us more like Christ, and we have a part in it. **We must be willing participants.**

Further study Romans 1-8 straight through one reading and study session.

Encourage dig deeper into this – especially sanctification. Dig into Romans 5, and Romans 6–8. This will be part of your willing participation with the Holy Spirit in conforming you into the image of Jesus!