

JUSTIFIED!

JIM NICODEM | MARCH 4 & 5, 2023

Introduction

1. The _____ of God's Grace

2. The _____ of Christ's Cross.
 - R _____

 - A _____

 - D _____

3. The _____ of Our Faith
 - not by _____

 - by _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Ice-breaker: Pastor Jim's opening illustration described one of his favorite childhood vacations. What was your favorite vacation growing up? Why?
2. How would you sum up Paul's main point in the opening two-and-a-half chapters of Romans (last week's sermon)? Explain Dr. John Stott's statement: "Sin is the dethronement of God with a view to the enthronement of oneself." What are sin's consequences?
3. Read Romans 3:21-24. What is the significance of the two words--But now--at the beginning of v.21? What is the cultural background of the word justify (v.24), and what does the word mean in a biblical context? Pastor Jim explained that sinners are justified when they participate in a great exchange. Describe that exchange. (Hint: see II Corinthians 5:21.)
4. Reread Romans 3:23, 24 and circle the word grace in your Bible. How did God's grace demonstrate its initiative, according to Romans 5:8? Why was it up to God (not us) to make a way for sinners to be declared righteous? (Hint: see Ephesians 2:1.)
5. Having made a way for sinners to be declared righteous, why is it still necessary for God to take the initiative in pursuing them, according to Romans 3:11; John 3:19, 20; and Isaiah 53:6? How did God pursue you before you surrendered to Christ? How does God's pursuit of you make you feel?
6. Explain Dr. Stott's question: "How is it possible for the righteous God to declare the unrighteous to be righteous without either compromising his righteousness or condoning their unrighteousness?" (Hint: see Proverbs 17:15.) How would you answer Dr. Stott's question?
7. Read Romans 3:24-26. Describe what is meant by each of the following words in these verses: redemption; atonement; demonstration.
8. Before Christ redeemed you, you were a slave to both sin's penalty and sin's power. Explain what is meant by each of these. How did Christ's cross redeem you from each? What did it cost Christ--according to I Peter 1:18, 19--to redeem you?
9. What are the differences between pagan sacrifices of atonement and Jesus' sacrifice of atonement? What motivated God--according to I John 4:10--to send Jesus for our atonement? Why was this not "cosmic child abuse"? (Hint: Galatians 2:20.)
10. Why can't we just tell God, "I'm sorry" and expect him to forgive us? We might not like the fact that God is just when his justice is applied to us--but why is it good to know that God is just?
11. Read Romans 3:21-28 and circle the word faith every time it pops up. What's the difference between being justified by faith and being justified by works? What are the two downsides of the "by works" approach?
12. How does faith differ from easy-believism, or from merely believing the right facts about Jesus? Read Romans 10:9, 10. What does genuine faith declare? How would you know if Jesus is your Lord?