

## 16. Justification

BC 23; Canons 2:8, e4

### Justification

**To justify = To declare righteous [Dt. 25:1]**

**Why our good works can't be even part of our righteousness... [LD 24]**

A work must be absolutely perfect for God to approve of it.

Even our best works are defiled with sin.

**God imputes to us Christ's righteousness [LD 23].**

As if we never had had nor committed any sin

As if we had accomplished all the obedience Christ accomplished for us.

**The difference between being justified & being sanctified.**

Justified = Freed from guilt [forgiven]

Sanctified = Freed from the dominion of sin

**Only those believing hear God declare them to be righteous in Christ.**

[2nd Part of Self Examination; LD 31, A. 84; Lk. 18:14]

**Those justified have peace with God [Rom. 5:1]**

### Unconditional

**If the covenant was conditional, justification would be conditional.**

[Canons 2:e4]

**It's not that we're acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of our faith [LD 23; Canons 2:e4]**

**Why [we] receive credit for what Christ did.**

Because Christ is our Head.

God chose us in Christ [Eph. 1:4].

The good pleasure of God is the only cause of our election [Canons 1:9-10].

**What happens to a believer who walks in sin for a time.**

He feels a burden of guilt [Ps. 32].

Sometimes for a time he loses the sense of God's favor [Canons 5:4-7].