

How Can You be Right with God?
Systematic Theology: Justification, Pt. 3: Grace, Merit, and Works

I. GRACE VS. MERIT: THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

- a. **Operative grace**—God moves the human to will the good.
- b. **Cooperative grace**—God moves the human will to will the good *and* the human will wills the good.
 - i. How does cooperative grace relate to infused righteousness?

- c. Rome believes justification is _____.
- d. The Bible says justification is _____.
- e. The Treasury of Merit contains the merit of Christ + the _____ righteousness and good works of the saints
- f. According to Rome, sin has a double consequence:
 - i. Eternal punishment →
 - ii. Temporal punishment →

- g. An **indulgence** is a ticket to _____ the leftover merit of the saints from the Treasury of Merit to your account, which then shortens your stay in _____.

- h. Roman Catholic Equation of Justification:
 - i. The _____ of God + merit of _____ (i.e. the treasury of merit) + personal merit (infused good works) → justification.

II. GRACE VS. MERIT: THE REFORMERS' PERSPECTIVE

- a. Rome's concept of "Gracious Merit" is contradictory.
 - i. *The principle of grace*: receiving what you _____ (unmerited favor).
 - ii. *The principle of works*: receiving what you've _____

- b. The Bible says grace and merit are _____.
What are some Biblical examples?

- c. **Romans 4:1-8**: Abraham was not justified by _____.
- d. **Romans 4:9-12**: Abraham was not justified by _____.
- e. **Romans 4:13-15**: Abraham was not justified by the _____.
- f. **Romans 4:16-25**: Abraham was justified by _____.

III. FAITH AND WORKS

Roman Catholic view	Faith + works → justification
Reformation view	Faith → justification + works

- a. Works are not the _____ justification, but the _____ justification
- b. James Chapter 2:14-24 speaks of 2 different _____ of faith
- c. **Dead Faith: James 2:14-20:**
 - a. In **2:14**, James is speaking of someone who says, _____ to have faith.
 - b. The parallel of **2:15-16**: faith without _____ is like words of compassion without _____ of compassion
 - c. **2:17**: If your faith does not produce good works, then it is a _____ faith that cannot _____.
- d. **Living Faith: James 2:21-24:**
 - a. How do we know James isn't contradicting Paul in **2:21-22**?
 - i. The Bible does not contradict itself.
 - ii. James asserts justification by _____ by quoting Genesis 15:6.
 - iii. James points to Genesis 22, and event that happened _____ Genesis 15.
 - b. In Romans 4, Paul is speaking of being justified _____ (forensic sense).
 - c. In James 2, James is speaking of being justified _____.
 - d. Abraham "was justified by works" before men (not before God) because he demonstrated the _____ of his faith by good works
 - e. **2:23**: In what sense does Abraham "fulfill" Genesis 15:6 by what he did in Genesis 22?
 - f. **2:24**: Before God, we are justified by faith alone, before others, it is not enough to say we have faith, we must justify our _____ with _____.

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- a. Work out your salvation by obedience
- b. Beware of turning obedience into legalism
- c. Whether you've had a good spiritual day or a bad spiritual day, remember where your righteousness is