

Dig Deeper – Romans 3:21-26

Justification

1. How are we justified?
2. What does it mean to say we are justified?
3. How does Jesus fulfil the following Old Testament images of justification?
 - Redemption (v24) (you may want to look at e.g. Exodus 15:13 and Leviticus 25:47-53)
 - Sacrifice (v25) (you may want to look at e.g. Leviticus 1:4)
4. Why does it matter that we are justified “by his grace as a gift” (v24)?

God’s character

1. What characteristics of God does this passage highlight?
2. How can these change our relationship with God?
3. How can these change our relationship with people?
4. Is God challenging us in any areas to display the characteristics highlighted in this passage better?¹ What concrete actions are we each going to take as a result of this?

Some additional questions

1. Why is it important Jesus was a willing sacrifice?
2. Why does it matter that God publicly “demonstrate[s] his righteousness” (v25 and v26)?

¹ If it is helpful to start the process of reflection, here are the questions from the end of the sermon.

- What are we doing to show the love that God shows to us to our brothers and sisters?
- Are we a church that shows mercy to each other when people repent (both for the wrongs done to each other and other sins that people confess to us), or are we keeping a mental accounting?
- Do we have the love, and understanding of the seriousness of sin, that it takes to overcome awkwardness and call our close brother or sister to repentance if we see them sinning unrepentantly?
- Do we promote and uphold justice, in the church and in our wider lives?