

# TRANSFORMED

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

## lesson one: Transformed Identity

### WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

Excerpt from The Westminster Catechism: The Larger Catechism

*\*Note: Catechism excerpts are in their original language, except verbs have been modified from original Old English to current usage. Example: pardoneth is changed to pardons; accepteth to accepts, etc. Italics indicate changes. (Comments in parenthesis are added for clarity.)*

**Q. 70. What is justification?** [10. The Larger Catechism, 1648]

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons (their individual) righteous in his sight; not for any thing wrought (created) in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God, imputed (assigned) to them, and received by faith alone.

**Q. 71. How is justification an act of God's free grace?** [10. The Larger Catechism, 1648]

A. Although Christ, by his obedience and death, did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in the behalf of them that are justified; yet in as much as God accepts the satisfaction from a surety, which he might have demanded of them, and did provide this surety, his own only Son, imputing (assigning) his righteousness to them, and requiring nothing of them for their justification but faith, which also is his gift, their justification is to them of free grace.

**Q. 72. What is justifying faith?** [10. The Larger Catechism, 1648]

A. Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assents to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receives and rests upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person (individual) righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

**Q. 73. How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?** [10. The Larger Catechism, 1648]

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, or of good works that are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed (assigned) to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receives and applies Christ and his righteousness.

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### Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 33: What is justification?** [11. Westminster Shorter Catechism]

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

