Series: Systematic Theology Part 3
Title: Justification
Purpose: To examine how and when we gain right legal standing before God
Date: November 2, 2025

I. Justification includes a legal declaration by God

A. Means to be declared righteous
B. Opposite of condemnation
C. Not an internal change but an external declaration
D. Legal change not organic change

II. God declares us to be just in His sight

A. No penalty for any sin
B. Not neutral but righteous

III. God can declare us just because He imputes Christ's righteousness to us

A. Imputes means to think of as belonging to us
B. Righteousness not based on anything in us or that we do but always on the basis of Christ's righteousness being thought of as belonging to us
C. Imputation is not the same as infusion
D. Justification provides assurance

IV. Justification comes to us entirely by God's grace, not on account of any merit in ourselves

A. Grace is a gift - Ephesians 2:8-9
B. Nothing we do or do not do changes our justification
C. Major focus of Reformation and major difference between evangelicals and Catholics

V. God justifies us through our faith in Jesus Christ

A. Justification follows salvation
B. Why faith?
C. What about works?
D. Implications of faith

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Outline taken from *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, 1994 edition