

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

October

Week 1 (10/9)

- Read: WCF 11.1
- Memorize: Rom. 3:23-24
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...
- Study questions:

Section 1

Note: The Greek word translated *justification* in the New Testament is related to the words for *right*, *proper*, *judge*, and, *righteousness*.

1. We find a demonstration of justification in Zechariah 3:1-5. In that passage, what was Joshua's problem?

What two things did God do for him?

2. Section 1 lists three pairs of distinctions that define justification. What are they?
3. In your own words, write a brief definition of justification.
4. Why does God justify those whom He calls?

Week 2 (10/16)

- Read: WCF 11.2

- Memorize: James 2:17-18

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

- Study questions:

Section 2

1. According to Section 2, how is a person justified?

2. Can you think of other ways people suggest that we are made right in the sight of God?

3. Are we saved by faith or through faith? What is the difference? (Consider the language of instrumentality in Section 2.)

4. What does Section 2 mean when it says that faith is not alone in the person justified?

Week 3 (10/23)

- Read: WCF 11.3-4

- Memorize: 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Study questions:

Section 3

1. What does Proverbs 17:15 say about the judge who justifies the wicked?

Isn't this what God does in Justification? How can God do this and still be a just God?

2. What do you think Section 3 means when it refers to Christ's "obedience and satisfaction"?

3. What is glorified in justification? Why?

Section 4

1. Describe the role of each person of the Trinity in justification.

Week 4 (10/30)

- Read: WCF 11.5-6

- Memorize: Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- Study questions:

Section 5

1. Read Romans 6:1. How does Section 5 answer Paul's question in Romans 6:1?
2. Why would God need to continue to forgive those that are justified?
3. What can result from the sin of a justified person?
4. How might a justified person seek to have "the light of God's countenance restored unto them"?

Section 6

1. How are Old Testament believers saved?
2. How are New Testament believers saved?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, November 3 @ 7:00pm