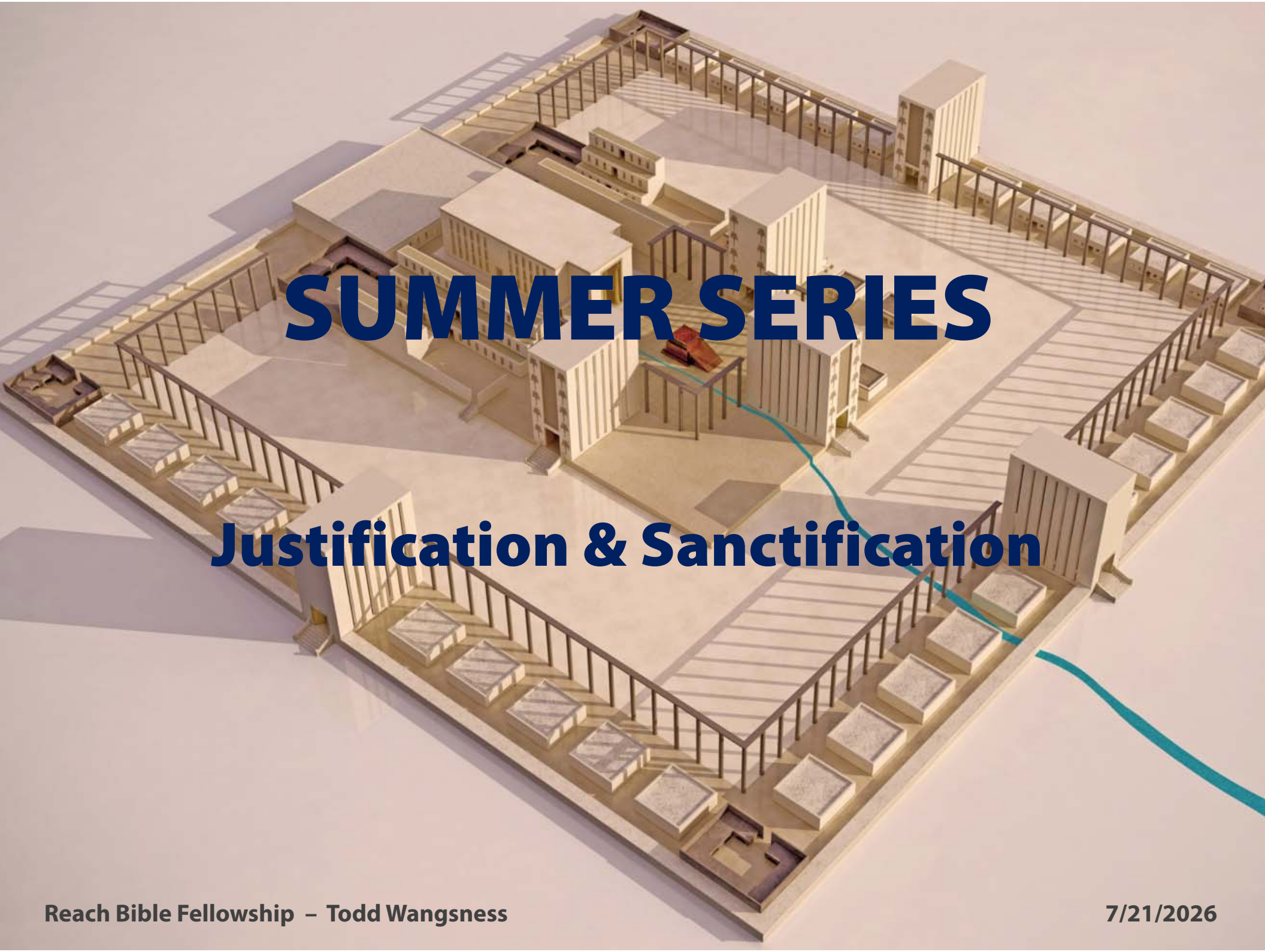


SUMMER SERIES

Justification & Sanctification

Reach Bible Fellowship – Todd Wangsness

7/21/2026

Summer Series: Justification & Sanctification

"'Justification' is the reckoning us righteous for Christ's sake — a finished work, by faith alone, giving us title to heaven.

'Sanctification' is the making us righteous inwardly — a progressive work, wrought by the Spirit, preparing us for heaven.

They differ greatly, yet agree in this: Both flow from free grace in Christ, begin together, and are found in the same persons. God has joined them; let no man put them asunder. All justified are sanctified, and all sanctified are justified."

"They cannot be divided … but never ought they to be confounded."

The righteousness we have by our justification is not our own, but the everlasting perfect righteousness of our great Mediator Christ, imputed to us, and made our own by faith. The righteousness we have by sanctification is our own righteousness, imparted, inherent, and wrought in us by the Holy Spirit, but mingled with much infirmity and imperfection.

- **J.C. Ryle (from Holiness)**

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Introduction

Justification answers the question, 'How can a guilty sinner be made right with a holy God?' Sanctification answers, 'How does that forgiven sinner become more like Christ?' One is about our standing before God; the other is about our state before God. One is instantaneous; the other is progressive. Yet both are essential, both are gifts of God's grace, and both are received through union with Jesus Christ.

As J.C. Ryle reminds us, God has joined these two doctrines together … let no one put them asunder. Misunderstanding them leads to either legalism or license; understanding them rightly brings freedom, assurance, and holy living.

These two fundamental doctrines intersect in one key verse found in *Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."*

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What is Justification?

- **The book of Romans, starting in 3:21 through all of chapter 4 provides the clearest description of the doctrine of *Justification* in the entire bible**

  - ***Rom 3:21-26 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and [also] the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

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- **Other verses that clearly state the doctrine of Justification**

  - ***Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.***

  - ***Tit 3:5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

  - ***Phil 3:9 … not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;***

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What is Sanctification?

- **Starting in Romans 5, Paul begins describing Sanctification**
  - ***Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

- **Reconciliation, Not Just Inner Calm**
  - **Unlike a general sense of tranquility, "peace with God" is relational … it's about the cessation of hostility between a person and God**
  - **Sin is a barrier that disrupts this relationship, and peace comes when that barrier is removed through forgiveness and grace**
  - ***Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.***

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- **A Gift Through Christ**
  - Jesus' death and resurrection bridges the gap between humanity and God
  - *Col 1:20 "and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."*
  - This means peace with God isn't something earned by human effort but received as a gift through trust (faith) in Christ's work

- **Freedom from Guilt and Fear**
  - When someone has peace with God, they no longer live under the weight of condemnation or fear of divine judgment
  - *Rom 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*
  - It's a state of assurance that God accepts and loves us

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- **This peace is not just a lofty ideal! It is (or should be!) a present reality!**
  - **We are to now "rejoice [or glory] in hope of the glory of God"!**

- **The same covenant that gave us Justification by faith, in the present, (by the same faith) gives us continual access to God's grace and power!**
  - **Once we see, believe and LAY HOLD OF this – we have the key to the Christian life!**

- **Just as with Justification – we lay hold of the Spirit's power to deliver us from sin (and our bondage to it!) through faith!**

- **The theme verse for all of Romans …**
  - ***Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."***

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- **Paul emphasizes that God justified and reconciled us to Him *while* we were unbelievers**
  - **God is now at peace with us through the blood of Jesus Christ as we walk the rest of our lives in the progression of sanctification**
  - ***Rom 5:10–11 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.***

- **Pay attention to the tenses – they're important!**
  - ***"we were reconciled to God"*** **is in the Past tense**
  - ***"shall be saved by His life"*** **is in the Present Perfect tense … an ongoing activity**

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Key Verse!

Rom 6:5-7 ***For if we have been <u>united together in the likeness of His death</u>, certainly we also shall be in the <u>likeness of His resurrection</u>, 6 <u>knowing this</u>, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be <u>done away with</u>, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For <u>he who has died has been freed from sin</u>.***

- ***"For if we have been …"*** **is more worded more powerfully in the Greek…**
  - **The Greek is better translated as *"In view of the fact we have been…"***

- **Just as we cannot have Justification unless we know that Jesus <u>bore our sins</u> on the cross, we cannot have Sanctification <u>unless/until we see Him bearing US</u> on the cross!**
  - **Not only has He borne our sins, but we have been put into Him!**

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- **"*Done away with*" - A very key phrase!**
  - **Greek: '*katargeō*' - Unemployed; inoperative; deprived of force, influence and power**
  - **The bible says that our SIN NATURE no longer has command over us!**
  - **Its power over us through Adam's Fall has been broken through Jesus' sacrifice!**
  - **The same Greek word is also used with regards to the Law and its power**
    - ***Rom 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.***
  - **Interestingly, the same word is used about Satan and his power and influence**
    - ***Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil***
- **Thus … Jesus' sacrifice has put PAID to our Sin Nature, the Law, and Satan!**
  - **The bible states VERY CLEARLY, the authority these taskmasters had over us has been terminated!!!**
- **Do we believe (have faith) that this is true?**

Grace By Design: Sanctification - Peace with God



- **Faith is our 'conduit' to the power of God**
- **How big is your faith?**
- **How well does the power of God flow through you?**

  Heb 5:13 "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe."



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- **Let's not deceive ourselves! We are in a VERY REAL BATTLE!**

- **What is the battleground?**
  - **The battle is for our minds and will**
  - ***2 Cor 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."***

- **Who is our enemy?**
  - ***Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

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- **How do we fight?**
  - ***Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

- **What weapons do we use?**
  - **Eph 6:14-17 God's Armor! Read these verses. Understand the implications!**
    - **Truth: Have our waist girded with Truth**
    - **Righteousness: Breastplate of Righteousness**
    - **Gospel of Peace: Having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace**
    - **Faith: Taking the Shield of Faith to quench fiery darts from the wicked one**
    - **Salvation: Put on the helmet of Salvation**
    - **Word of God: Use the Sword of the Spirt which is the Word of God**

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Eph 6:16 "above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

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Four things to guard against in our battle against sin:

- **Comparing ourselves to others**
  - This either creates a sense of superiority/self-confidence or causes despair
  - This soldier has taken his eye off the battle. He is going to get blind-sided!
- **Complacency towards sin**
  - "God made me this way! He understands why I can't overcome."
  - This soldier is guilty of dereliction of duty. This soldier left his assigned position at the front-line and went back to his tent to take a nap.
- **Defeated mindset**
  - "I'll never overcome! It's just too hard to even try!"
  - This soldier is a deserter. He saw the ferocity of the battle and ran away.
- **Bitterness towards God**
  - "God is withholding good from me!" or "God has given me more than I can bear!"
  - This soldier has crossed to the side of the enemy and is in rebellion against God or – at minimum – is providing aid and comfort to the enemy by accusing God of evil

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Do Not Let Sin Reign!

- ***Rom 6:12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.***

- **We're no longer bound to sin … we have been freed from it!**
- ***"Do not let sin reign …":*** **But, we have a choice (freewill)**
- **Do we succumb to carnal desires or do we yield our mind and bodies to God?**
  - **"*members*" (Greek *melos* – body parts)**
  - **"*instruments*" (Greek *hoplon* – a military term, arms used in warfare, weapons)**
  - **In other words, we're not to yield our bodies and carnal appetites as weapons for the evil one, rather, we're to present our minds and bodies to God for His use and purposes**

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A promise and an expectation!

- ***Rom 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."***

- **Sin and our Sin Nature no longer have authority over us**
- **We ARE NOT subject to either our Sin Nature nor the Law**
  - **We are freed and forgiven!**
  - **We are empowered from on high with God's own nature!**
  - ***Eph 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us …"***

- **Our challenge is to CHOOSE on a moment-by-moment basis to follow God instead of our carnal desires**

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

As we conclude this study, let us remember the beautiful harmony of the gospel: We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone … declared righteous the moment we trust in Him. At the very same moment, the Holy Spirit begins the lifelong work of sanctification, making us righteous in practice as we grow in holiness. Justification gives us title to heaven. Sanctification gives us fitness for heaven. One is complete and perfect; the other is progressive and imperfect until glory. Yet both are inseparable because both are found in the same Christ.

If you are in Christ today, you are fully accepted by the Father … not because of your performance, but because of Christ's finished work. And because you are accepted, the Spirit is at work transforming you day by day.

OUR ANTHEM!

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20