

# Soteriowhat?

*Taken from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology, Chapter 36: Justification (Right Legal Standing Before God) and Chapter 37: Adoption (Membership in God's Family)*

## Justification (Right Legal Standing Before God)

**Grudem: Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.**

**A. Justification Includes a Legal Declaration by God. [Luke 7:28-30](#); [Romans 8:33-34](#)**

**B. God Declares Us to Be Just in His Sight. [Romans 3:20, 28](#); [5:1](#); [8:1](#)**

Our faith in Christ + God's declaration = Our \_\_\_\_\_

**C. God Can Declare Us to Be Just Because He Imputes Christ's Righteousness to Us**

Imputes = reckons or \_\_\_\_\_. [Romans 4:3-6](#); [5:19](#)

Our forgiveness + Christ's righteousness = Our \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Justification Comes to Us Entirely by God's Grace, Not on Account of Any Merit in Ourselves. [Romans 3:20-24](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Titus 3:7](#)**

**E. God Justifies Us Through Our Faith in Christ. [Romans 8:33-34](#); [3:25-26](#); [8:30](#); [4](#); [5:1](#); [Galatians 2:16](#); [3:24](#)**

## Scripture Memory Passage

**Romans 3:27-28: 27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.**

## Adoption (Membership in God's Family)

### A. Scriptural Evidence for Adoption

*Grudem: Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family. John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2; Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 9:7-8*

There are only \_\_\_\_\_ options for family membership: the devil's family ([John 8:41-44](#)) or God's family ([Romans 8:14-17](#)).

### D. The Privileges of Adoption

- *Grudem: Being able to speak to God and relate to him as a good and loving Father. Matthew 6:9*
- *Grudem: We now relate to God not as a slave relates to a slave master, but as a child relates to his or her father. Galatians 4:7*
- *Grudem: God gives us an internal witness from the Holy Spirit that causes us instinctively to call God our Father. Romans 8:15-16*
- *Grudem: He loves us (1 John 3:1), that he understands us (Psalm 103:13-14), and that he takes care of our needs. Matthew 6:32*
- *Grudem: God gives us many good gifts. Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13*
- *Grudem: He also gives us a great inheritance in heaven. Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21*
- *Grudem: The privilege of being led by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14*
- *Grudem: God disciplines us as his children. Hebrews 12:5-10*
- *Grudem: The privilege of sharing both in his sufferings and in his subsequent glory. Romans 8:17*
- *Grudem: [We are] "brothers" and "sisters" in Christ. 1 Corinthians 7:15; Matthew 12:50; James 2:15-17*
- *Grudem: We, as God's children, are to imitate our Father in heaven in all our conduct. Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:14-16*

### Scripture Memory Passage

**Romans 8:14-17: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**