

Life Group Discussion Guide *August 16, 2015*



Part 1: Justified

Introduction

"To condemn is not merely to punish, but to declare the accused guilty or worthy of punishment; and justification is not merely to remit that punishment, but to declare that punishment cannot be justly inflicted." - C.H. Hodge

Scripture References

- Romans 3:20-26

Discussion Kick Off

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word instruction?
2. What are the most detailed instructions you have read? Can you sum up the instructions in a couple of words or phrases?

Evaluate It

1. Read Romans 3:20-26. How does this passage break down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles?
2. Reread Romans 3:23. How do you believe the average person in Elizabethtown would respond to this?
3. **What does Paul mean when he says, "The righteousness of God" in verses 21-22?**
4. In verses 22, 24, 26 and 28, Paul tells us how we are justified or declared righteous. What does he stress by repetition?
5. **Stuart says, "Alone we are condemned, but with Christ we are justified."** What impact does this have on your life?
6. How does Jesus' **sacrifice demonstrate God's justice?**

Make It Personal

1. In what ways would you feel or act differently if you could fully grasp what Jesus has done for you?
2. **How does Paul's example affect our evangelism?**

Paul Washer once had a seminary student send him a message. The message said, "I think I am too wicked to be in the ministry." Paul Washer wrote him back and said, "You are right. In fact, you don't know how wicked you are." The young man replied, "Thanks a lot." Washer replied, "Friend, your heart is for the Lord and your life is lived in service to him. Your level of sanctification and commitment puts me to shame at times. But I am happy and you are not. Do you know why? Because I have chosen to trust in Christ, and you are still, in part, trying to trust in yourself."

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a life or table group? Leadership can be shared, or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fccetown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones (Senior Minister)
stuart@fccetown.com

Chris Harp (Executive Minister)
chrisharp@fccetown.com

Doug Mitchell (Connections Minister)
doug@fccetown.com

Jason Fox (Small Group Minister)
jason@fccetown.com

Tim Hurd (Children's Minister)
tim@fccetown.com

Shannon Smith (Assistant Children's Director)
shannon@fccetown.com

Chris Kiger (Student Minister)
chris@fccetown.com

