

The Augsburg Confession of 1530

Article IV: Justification

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Justification

†¹ Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works.

Galatians 5:4

Galatians 5:4 “You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 2:16 “... [A] man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

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†² People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Hebrews 11:6

* **Hebrews 11:6** “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

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† By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins.



I John 4:10

* **1 John 4:10** “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

1 John 2:2

1 John 2:2 “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

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✝³ God counts
this faith for
righteousness
in His sight
(Romans 3 and
4 [3:21–26;
4:5]).

Behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD, when I will
raise up for David a righteous
Branch... And this is the name by
which he will be called:

‘The LORD is our
righteousness.’

—Jeremiah 23:5-6

Romans 3:21-26

Romans 3:21 “Now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus....

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ ... God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

Romans 4:5

Romans 4:5 “To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”