

**Scripture:** Romans 4  
**Singing:** 52:1-4 – 17:1-5 – 337:3-4 – 419:2-3

CoF art 22-23 (4)

**You only will be saved through your faith in Jesus Christ**

- I. If you have such faith, know where that came from
- II. If you have such faith, recognize how it acts within you
- III. If you have such faith, rejoice in what it brings you (art 22-24)

Intro: Why are there so many similarities between *natural and spiritual* life?

A. It is divine design: *to reveal truths on our level*

- 1. His relationship with His people (Bride)
- 2. His work of regeneration in ‘new birth’ in use of ‘seed’ (Word)

B. All spiritual life in us begins with *regeneration* (1 Peter 1:23)

- 1. This marks the beginning of a ‘new life’
- 2. Great motor of this *new life* is the gift faith (Gal. 2:20; CoF: art. 24)

**III. If you have faith, rejoice in what it brings you**

A. Gather up the gold nuggets of truth in articles 22-23:

- 1. Westminster Shorter Catechism: *Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of X imputed to us, and received by faith alone.*

B. Consider Romans 4:1-5 (5:1-2; 8:1)

- 1. Definition of *justify*: it is legal act spoken by a judge regarding defendant
- 2. Illustration of court: *judge – defendant – accuser (prosecutor) – sentence*
  - a. the accused
  - b. the sentence of the judge will be either *guilty or innocent*
  - c. earthly judges can err, but God cannot mis-judge

3. Dilemma: How then can God *justify an ungodly* person from all charges?

a. The Gospel answer:

- your faith in Jesus *unites* you with Jesus (John 1:12)
  
- God *imputes Jesus' righteousness to you* (Rom. 3:24-25)
  
- The *imputation* is double (2 Cor. 5:21)
  
- On basis of the *double imputation*, God can justify (Gal. 3:11)

C. Though already *justification through faith in Jesus Christ* is exceeding great, there are many other benefits to be enjoyed: see Art 23

### **Reflections:**

A. Be clear: if you err in this doctrine, you will stray everywhere!

B. Be encouraged: He invites the smallest believer to *enter into peace* that there is now no condemnation to all who are united by faith with Him: Mark 5:34