

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 Christ 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