CONFESSING OUR FAITH westminster larger catechism

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Q 72. What is justifying faith?

A Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assenteth to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receiveth and resteth upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

1. Heb. 10:39. 2. 2 Cor. 4:13; Eph. 1:17–19; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Pet. 1:2. 3. Rom. 10:14–17; 1 Cor. 1:21. 4. Acts 2:37; Acts 16:30; John 16:8–9; Rom. 6:6; Eph. 2:1; Acts 4:12. 5. Eph. 1:13; Heb. 11:13. 6. John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Acts 10:43; Zech. 3:8–9. 7. Phil. 3:9; Acts 15:11.

Q 73. How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?

Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, or of good works that are the fruits of it,¹ nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed to him for his justification;² but only as it is an instrument by which he receiveth and applieth Christ and his righteousness.³

1. Gal. 3:11: Rom. 3:28. 2. Rom. 4:5: Rom. 10:10. 3. John 1:12: Phil. 3:9: Gal. 2:16.

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