

VI. The justification of believers under the old testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the new testament.

The *Augsburg Confession* (A.D. 1530), Article 4 ("Of Justification") states:

Also they teach that men can not be justified (obtain forgiveness of sins and righteousness) before God by their own powers, merits, or works; but are justified freely (of grace) for Christ's sake through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and their sins forgiven for Christ's sake, who by his death hath satisfied for our sins. This faith doth God impute for righteousness before him. Rom. 3 and 4.

The *Formula of Concord* (A.D. 1576), Article III, Affirmative, section II, states:

We believe, therefore, teach, and confess that this very thing is our righteousness before God, namely, that God remits to us our sins of mere grace, without any respect of our works, going before, present, or following, or of our worthiness or merit. For he bestows and imputes to us the righteousness of Christ; for the sake of that righteousness we are received by God into favor and accounted righteous.

The *Heidelberg Catechism* (A.D. 1563), Questions 59-63, states:

Question 59 -- But what does it help thee now that thou believest all this?

Answer -- That I am righteous in Christ before God, and an heir of eternal life.

Question 60 -- How art thou righteous before God?

Answer -- Only by true faith in Jesus Christ; that is, although my conscience accuse me that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have never kept any of them, and that I am still prone always to all evil, yet God, without any merit of mine, of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never committed nor had any sin, and had myself accomplished all the obedience which Christ has fulfilled for me, if only I accept such benefit with a believing heart.

Question 61 -- Why sayest thou that thou art righteous only by faith?

Answer -- Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith; but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God, and I can receive the same and make it my own in no other way than by faith only.