

4. Justification is not based on subjective sanctification

God does not make the sinner subjectively holy and then declare him to be objectively righteous.

- a. Such a scenario would admit of degrees of justification relative to the degree of sanctification experienced up to a given moment.

Justification would then be relative until the sinner is made perfect. No human being could then be declared perfectly righteous until he or she became perfectly holy. Justification would then mean no more than imputing to a person what he or she actually is (in character and conduct).

- b. Justification is spoken of as an act, whereas subjective sanctification includes progress (a process)

Romans 5:1 -- "Therefore having been justified (δικαιωθέντες) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:9 -- "Much more then, having now been justified (δικαιωθέντες) by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

Titus 3:7 -- "that being justified (δικαιωθέντες) by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

II Corinthians 7:1 -- "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (καθαρίσωμεν ἑαυτοὺς) from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Hebrews 12:14 -- "Pursue after peace with all men, and after the sanctification (ἁγιασμόν) without which no one will see the Lord."

I John 3:2-3 -- "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, if He should appear, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And every one who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself (ἁγνίζει ἑαυτόν), just as He is pure."

- c. Justification includes the imputation of a righteousness which is not the sinner's own, one that is not based on his goodness or moral excellence or holiness, but on the righteousness of Christ Himself.

In justification Christ's righteousness is not imparted but imputed. Christ's perfect life of obedience to