

# PROBLEMS WITH JUSTIFICATION

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ROMANS 3:19-24



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**Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

**Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

**Romans 3:22** Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**Romans 3:24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

# PROBLEMS & THE SOLUTION:

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*Credit: Fred Schilling, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States*



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# JUSTIFICATION

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- a legal, forensic term.
- It comes from the courtroom & law.
- A verdict.
- A declaration – declared righteous (or not guilty)





# #1 Problem: God **cannot** justify the wicked / sinners

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**Proverbs 17:15** He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, **Even they both are abomination to the LORD.**

**Exodus 23:7** Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: **for I will not justify the wicked.**

**Proverbs 24:23** These things also belong to the wise. It is **not** good to have respect of persons in judgment. **Proverbs 24:24** **He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; Him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:**





# **#1 Problem: God **cannot** justify the wicked / sinners**

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- The judge doesn't make us guilty or innocent / righteous!
- The judge declares.
- The judge pronounces.
- And how can God pronounce a wicked / sinful man innocent???



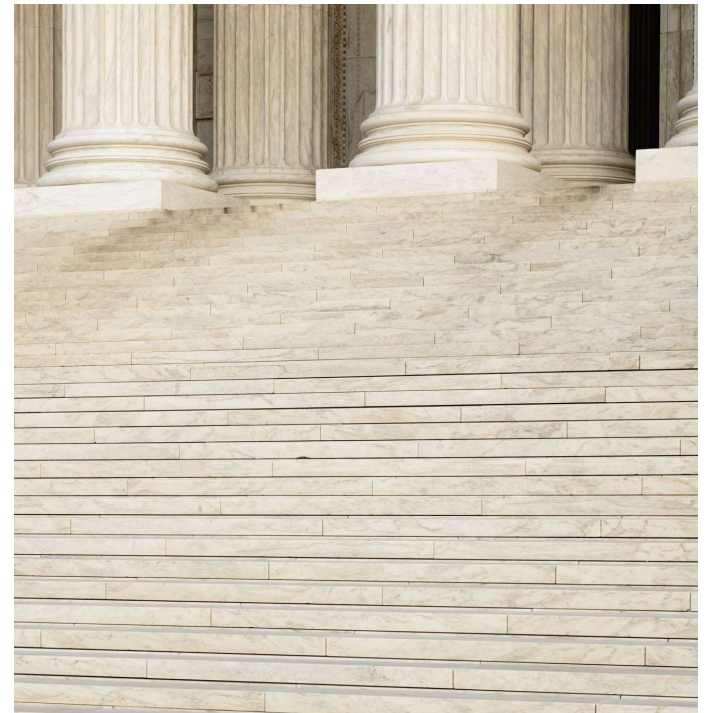
## #2 Problem: (And) We are all wicked / sinners!

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**Romans 3:21** **But now** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

**Romans 3:22** **Even** the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: **for** **there is no difference:**

**Romans 3:23** **For** all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;



## #2 Problem: (And) We are all wicked / sinners!

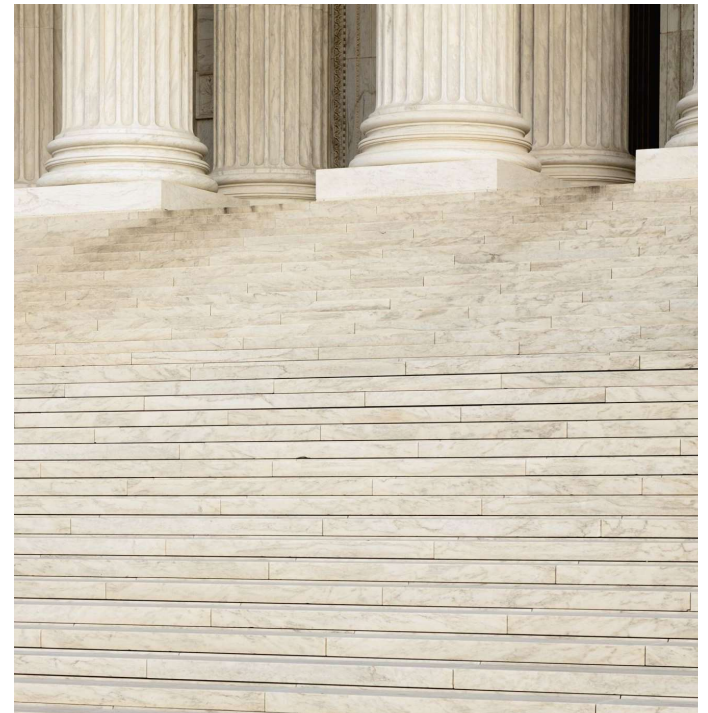
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**Romans 3:9** What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved **both** Jews and Gentiles, that they are **all** under sin;

**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is **none** righteous, **no**, **not one**:

**Romans 3:11** There is **none** that understandeth, there is **none** that seeketh after God.

**Romans 3:12** They are **all** gone out of the way, they **are** **together** become unprofitable; there is **none** that doeth good, **no**, **not one**.



## #2 Problem: (And) We are all wicked / sinners!

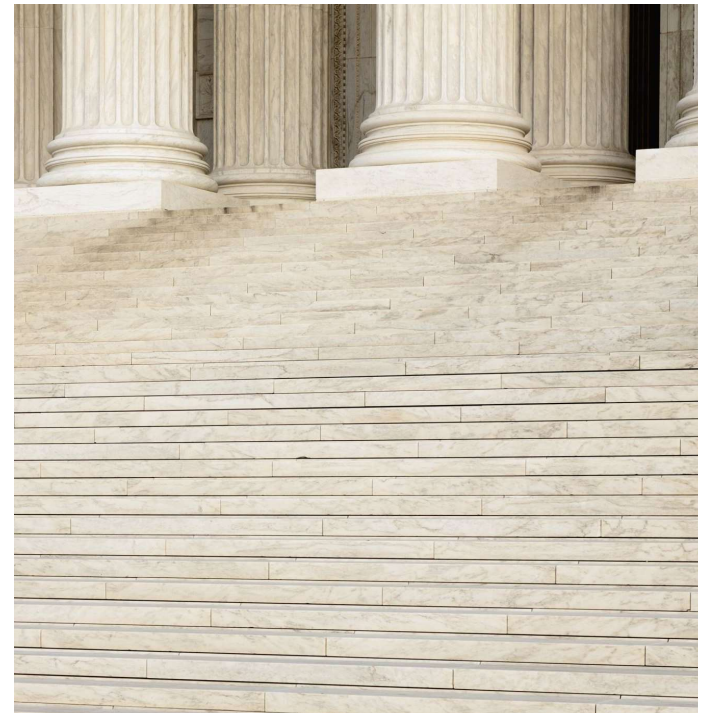
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**1 Kings 8:46** If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

**Psalms 130:3** If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

**Psalms 143:2** And enter not into judgment with thy servant: **For** in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** For there is **not** a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth **not**.



## #3 Problem: (And) The Law makes it **worse! Much worse!**


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**Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **that** every mouth may be stopped, **and** all the world may become guilty before God.

**Romans 3:20** **Therefore** by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for** by the law is **the knowledge** (ἐπίγνωσις ἁμαρτίας) of sin.







## #3 Problem: (And) The Law makes it **worse!** **Much worse!**

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The Law (actually any law):

- Eliminates our excuses! 3:19
- Establishes our guilt / accountability! 3:19
- Exacerbates our sinfulness! 3:20

# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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**Solus Christus: by / because of Christ **alone**!**

**Romans 3:24** Being justified freely by his grace  
**through** the redemption that is **in** Christ Jesus:



# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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## Summarized:

- A debt is owed
- A debt we **cannot** pay!
- A debt that **must** be paid!
- A debt Christ paid & **only** Christ could pay!



# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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**Galatians 3:13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Galatians 1:3** Grace be to you and **peace** from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: **Galatians 1:5** To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.





# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

**Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his **blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;



# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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**Sola Gratia:** by grace alone!

**Romans 3:24** Being justified freely (δωρεάν) **by** his grace (τῇ αὐτοῦ χάριτι) through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:



# The Solution: God justifies us the **only** way we can be justified!

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**Sola Fide: through faith alone!**

**Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God **without** the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

**Romans 3:22** **Even the righteousness of God** which is **by faith** of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all** them that believe: for there is no difference:

**Romans 3:28** **Therefore we conclude** that a man is justified **by faith** **without** the deeds of the law.

