



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 11 - Of Justification

Living and gracious God,

We marvel that those whom you effectually call, you also justify by a free act of your own will.

Living God, we understand that this justification is not by infusing us with a righteousness, but rather by declaring our sins pardoned. You account and accept us as righteous, though our sins are worthy of condemnation.

We fully acknowledge before you, Lord, that this justification is not because you have worked righteousness into us at that time, nor because we have done anything ourselves worthy of being declared righteous. You do not even declare us righteous because you have taken account of our faith or any other act of our own obedience.

We know, Lord God, that none of this is sufficient to be declared righteous in your sight. You have blessed us this way for Christ's sake alone.

We praise you, Lord God, that this justification is grounded in Jesus and His righteousness.

Holy God, by this gift of faith, we rest on the obedience and satisfaction of Christ and His righteousness. We understand that faith is alone the instrument by which we can receive justification—and amazingly even this faith is your gift to us.

We marvel that we are justified by grace through faith alone. Yet we praise you that this faith is never alone. Such justifying faith is always accompanied by the loving good works you would have us attend to. Faith is never a dead faith but always accompanied by all other saving graces, poured out in love.

Lord Almighty, as a justified and saved people, we live in complete confidence and freedom before you because we know that our justification rests on Jesus Christ and His obedience in His life and especially His death. We know that only His obedience in life and death could fully discharge the debt of sin of all who are justified. What a Saviour! Thank you Father that what we did not earn, we cannot lose.

We delight in knowing that as you, Heavenly Father, gave Jesus Christ for your people, and as you freely accept His obedience and satisfaction in our place—that His perfect life met your perfect justice and through the richness of your grace, you are glorified in the justification of sinners. Because there is nothing in us worthy of such justification, the glory is all yours: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Eternal God, you willed such justification for your elect in all eternity. You then sent your Son, Jesus Christ, at your perfect timing to die for sins and rise again for the justification of your people. Yet we are humbled in the knowledge that only when your Holy Spirit, also in perfect time, applied the benefits of Christ's life and death to your chosen people were we justified.

We rejoice in the knowledge that you continue to forgive our sins and that you will never allow us to fall from the state of justification.

Lord, we are saddened by the reality that we do nevertheless continue to sin. While we hate the absence of your Fatherly pleasure and smile, we know this absence draws us to humbly confess our sins and seek your pardon with open hearts. We thank you that you draw us to yourself and that in turning back to you, we are renewed in repentance and faith.

We marvel, dear Lord, that as an eternal God, you justified believers in Old Testament times in exactly the same way as you did believers under the New Testament.

For your loving mercy and grace, we give you all our thanks and adoration,

In Christ's name,

Amen