

Righteousness

Defined: A conformity of heart and life to the divine law.

The translation of the word righteousness is easy. There is only one root word for righteousness used in the Bible. The Hebrew word *sadak* is used in the Old Testament, and the Greek word *dikaisune* for the New Testament. The Hebrew word *sadak* means to be just and lawful where as the Greek word "dikaisune" means to be justified. It is interesting how the meaning of righteousness changes in the New Testament.

The problem is that the English word righteousness does not capture the full essence of the original languages. Basically, righteous means conformity to God's standard of right and wrong. In English we need to use a different word for the sense of justify. However, the original word 'to make righteous' included this legal sense of to justify and complete justice. There was no separate word for justice. Look in the Bible. When you find the word justice or justify, it will more than often be the same as made righteous or righteousness

We can define Biblical New Testament righteousness as: to be made righteous even though he is not righteous.

Our sin was imputed to Jesus Christ, charged to Him:

Romans 5:13 *"For until the law, sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law."* Once we are born-again, our relationship with God is no longer at stake. From that time forward, only our fellowship with God requires constant attention. When we received forgiveness of sins and became a born-again Christian, our relationship with God was settled. Now, our Fellowship with God can and does get interrupted by sinful acts! But, through repentance of our sins we can restore our fellowship with God.

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" 1 John 1:5-7.

Imputed righteousness - credited to our account:

"However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." - Romans 4:5

Abraham "received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, **that righteousness might be imputed to them** also. And being fully convinced that what (God) had promised He was also able to perform. Therefore 'it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was **imputed** to him, but also for us. It shall **be imputed** to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." - Romans 4:21-24

1. What makes us acceptable to God? Romans 14:17-18

2. What are the two kinds of righteousness? Romans 10:2-3

3. What righteousness is wholly acceptable to God and available to every believer?
Phil. 3:9

4. How can a Christian become righteous? Romans 3:20-22

5. Once we have the garment of salvation God also covers us with what to make us
acceptable to Him? Isaiah 61:10

6. What is the most important thing you can seek God for in your life? Matthew 6:33

7. By whose sin were all made sinners? Romans 5:12-19

8. Through whom were all Christians made righteous? Romans 5:19

9. How did Jesus prove he was the only one capable of being righteous?

Matthew 5:17

10. How does God describe man's attempts to become righteous on his own?

Isaiah 64:6

11. How does the righteousness of Christ become our very own righteousness -- so that we can stand accepted in God's Presence? Romans 4:6, 22-24

12. How can we receive Christ's perfect righteousness? Romans 4:16

13. What must I do to receive Christ's righteousness? Romans 10:10, 3:22

14. What fact of identity does a mature Christian grasp? Hebrews 5:13-14.

15. What is the only thing that can prevent a Christian from being righteous?

Romans 1:17. Gal.5:5, Phil. 3:9

16. If we don't receive our righteousness by faith what might we be tempted to do?

2 Corinthians 10:12

17. What is sanctification? Eph. 4:13

18. Are Christians obligated to do good works? Ephesians 2:10

19. Do good works make us more righteous? Romans 9:30-33

20. How does Jesus justify before God those who believe in Him? Romans 3:26

21. What will be the effect of understanding your righteousness? Proverbs 28:1

22. Once saved a Christian must accept two important facts by faith what are they?
Romans 3:22-26

23. When Jesus paid for and took on our sins what did we receive?
2 Cor. 5:21
