

Belgic Confession, Article 20, “The Justice and Mercy of God in Christ”

Scripture Lesson: Romans 3:21-31

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, that the crucifixion of Christ manifests the justice of God. Second, that the crucifixion of Christ manifests the mercy of God.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 20 and Romans 3:21-31. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	What is the justice of God? The justice of God is defined as what is fair or right according to God’s standard. The Old and New Testament words for justice are often translated as “righteousness.” What is the righteousness of God? The righteousness of God is the holiness of God (the purity and perfection of God’s nature) in action; It represents the actions of God to preserve his holy nature, such as punishing sinners. Since we Christians are sinners, how do we avoid the punishment of hell, which we deserve for our sins? God must still satisfy his justice but does so through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ who had first obeyed the Law before he took on the eternal wrath of God on the cross. When anyone has faith in this Christ and what he did for him, is saved from hell and inherits eternal life. What Scripture clearly explains the crucifixion of Christ as that which satisfies the justice of God on our behalf? Romans 3:21-31. What is the mercy of God? The mercy of God is not receiving eternal punishment in hell that we deserve but receiving what we do not deserve, eternal life in heaven, through the work of Jesus Christ for us on the cross.
Bible Reading	2 Samuel 11-17 (covering the great Bible stories)