

Belgic Confession, Article 23, "Justification"

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 32

Lesson Aim	To understand the character of the sinfulness of mankind and how the justifying activity of God overcomes that character and saves mankind.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 23 and Psalm 32 . 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	<p>What is original sin? Original sin is Adam's sin imputed to all people. Imputation refers to God declaring all people to be sinners by nature.</p> <p>What is actual sin or the pollution of sin? Actual sin or the pollution of sin refers to the sins that all people actually commit. All people, because they have original sin, will by necessity actually sin in thought, word and deed.</p> <p>What Scriptures discuss our sinful nature? 2 Samuel 11, Psalm 32, Isaiah 59 and Romans 3, to name just a few.</p> <p>According to David's story in 2 Samuel 11 and Psalm 32, when did things change for the better? When he confessed his sins to God.</p> <p>What are the three main components to the doctrine of justification? First, faith in Christ, which includes knowledge, assent and a hearty trust. Second, the forgiveness of sin in which God does not impute our sin to us. Third, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, which means that God declares us as righteous as Christ simply through faith in Christ alone.</p> <p>What is a simple definition of justification? Justification is God taking away our sins and imputing Christ's righteousness to us through faith in Christ alone.</p> <p>What is one of the benefits of being justified in God's sight? We can have confidence in approaching God and our conscience is free from fear, terror and dread. We can boldly approach the God in prayer anytime and know that we'll be received.</p>
Bible Reading	1 Samuel 8-14 (covering the great Bible stories)