

ROMAN CATHOLIC JUSTIFICATION: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

A Different Definition of Justification

Paragraph 1992: "Justification is conferred in Baptism, the sacrament of faith. It conforms us to the righteousness of God, who makes us inwardly just by the power of his mercy."

Paragraph 1989: "Justification is not only the remission of sins, but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior man." (The Roman Catholic Catechism, http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)

A Different Instrument of Justification

"...the instrumental cause is the sacrament of baptism, which is the sacrament of faith, without which no man was ever justified finally..." (Council of Trent, session 6, "Decree on Justification," chapter 7)

"If anyone says that the faith which justifies is nothing else but trust in the divine mercy, which pardons sins because of Christ; or that it is that trust alone by which we are justified: let him be anathema." (Council of Trent, session 6, "Decree on Justification," canon 12)

A Different Effect of Justification

Paragraph 1129: "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are *necessary for salvation*." (Roman Catholic Catechism, http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s1c1a2.htm)

Paragraph 1392: "What material food produces in our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life. Communion with the flesh of the risen Christ, a flesh "given life and giving life through the Holy Spirit," preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received at Baptism." (Roman Catholic Catechism, http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a3.htm)

A Different Action of Justification

"As regards those who, by sin, have fallen from the received grace of Justification, they may be again justified, when, God exciting them, through the sacrament of Penance they shall have attained to the recovery, by the merit of Christ, of the grace lost." (Council of Trent, session 6, "Decree on Justification," chapter 14)