

# **“Communion: Celebrating Jesus”**

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**We can grow in our ability to celebrate Jesus by understanding these four words:**

- A. **Justification** is to be declared righteous. It is a judicial term indicating that a verdict of acquittal has been announced. Justification means that God has not only forgiven me, but also has granted me the righteousness of Christ. (Romans 5:1; Romans 3:21-24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:15-16)

**This truth confronts the lie that I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.**

“Justification carries no guilt with it and has no memory of past transgressions. Christ paid for all of our sins at the cross – past, present, and future. Hebrews 10:17 says, ‘And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’ We are completely forgiven by God!

As marvelous as it is, justification means more than the forgiveness of sins. In the same act of love through which God forgave our sins, He also provided for our righteousness, the worthiness to stand in God’s presence. By imputing righteousness to us, God attributes Christ’s worth to us. The moment we accept Christ, God declares that we are no longer condemned sinners. Instead, we are forgiven, we receive Christ’s righteousness, and we are creatures who are fully pleasing to him.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*,  
W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 42.

“The point of justification is that we can never achieve perfection on this earth; even our best efforts at self-righteousness are as filthy rags to God (Isa. 64:6). Yet He loves us so much that He appointed His Son to pay for our sins and to give us His own righteousness, His perfect status before the Father.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*,  
W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 43.

- B.** **Reconciliation** means that although I was at one time hostile toward God and alienated from Him, I am now forgiven and have been brought into an intimate relationship with Him. (Romans 8:15; Romans 5:9-11; Colossians 1:21-22)

**This truth confronts the lie that I must be approved by others to feel good about myself.**

“Our unconditional acceptance in Christ is a profound, life-changing truth. Salvation is not simply a ticket to heaven. It is the beginning of a dynamic new relationship with God. *Justification* is the doctrine that explains the judicial facts of our forgiveness and righteousness in Christ. *Reconciliation* explains the relational aspect of our salvation. The moment we receive Christ by faith, we enter into a personal relationship with Him. We are united with God in an eternal and inseparable bond (Rom. 8:38-39). We are bound in an indissoluble union with Him, as fellow heirs with Christ. The Holy Spirit has sealed us in that relationship, and we are absolutely secure in Christ.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*,  
W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 64.

- C. **Propitiation** means that by the death of Christ on the cross, Christ satisfied God's wrath. (Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 John 4:9-11)

**This truth confronts the lie that because I have sinned, I am unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.**

“Our sin deserves the righteous wrath of God. He is the Almighty, the rightful judge of the universe. He is absolutely holy and perfect. ‘God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all’ (1 John 1:5). Because of these attributes, God cannot overlook sin, nor can He compromise by accepting sinful behavior. For God to condone even one sin would defile His holiness like smearing a white satin wedding gown with black tar. Because He is holy, God’s aversion to sin is manifested in righteous anger. However, God is not only righteously indignant about sin, He is also infinitely loving. In His holiness, God condemns sin, but in the most awesome example of love the world has ever seen, He ordained that His Son would die to pay for our sins. God sacrificed the sinless, perfect Savior to turn away, *to propitiate*, His great wrath.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*, W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 89.

“...the God of heaven peered down through time and saw you and me. Though we were His enemies, He loved us and longed to rescue us from our sins, designating the sinless Christ to become our substitute. Only Christ could avert God’s righteous wrath against sin, so in love the Father kept silent as Jesus hung from the cross. All of His anger, all of the wrath we would ever deserve, was poured out on Christ, and Christ became sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). Because He paid the penalty for our sins, and God’s wrath was avenged, God no longer looks upon us through the eyes of judgment. Instead, he now lavishes His love upon us. The Scriptures teach that absolutely nothing can separate us from God’s love (Rom. 8:38-39). He has adopted us into a tender, intimate, and powerful relationship with Him (Rom. 8:15).”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*, W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 90.

- D.** **Regeneration** is the renewing work of the Holy Spirit that literally makes each believer a new person at the moment trust is placed in Christ as Lord and Savior.  
(2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-6; Luke 19:1-10; Ephesians 2:5; Titus 3:3-7; Colossians 1:1-17)

**This truth confronts the lie that I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless.**

“Regeneration is not a self-improvement program, nor is it a cleanup campaign for our sinful natures. Regeneration is nothing less than the impartation of new life. Paul stated in Ephesians 2:5 that we were once dead in our sins, but we have since been made alive in Christ.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*,  
W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 106.

“The truth of regeneration can dispel the specter of the past. Our sins have been forgiven, and we now have tremendous capabilities for growth and change because we are new people with the Spirit of God living in us.”

Robert S. McGee, *The Search For Significance*,  
W Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee, 2003, p. 108.