

1517

REFORMATION

500

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CHURCH

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**These days, in English at least, we sometimes hear that “Protestants” are by definition people who “protest,” that is, people defined by their disagreement with something, their dissent, their rejection of something. It is, in other words, considered a term that stands for nothing positive, but draws its meaning only by negation.”**

**- Fred Sanders**

# Protestant

- **Protest** - from Latin *protestari*: *to testify, or to hold a position*
- **Protestant** - (n) *one who testifies, declares publicly, or states formally*

# The 5 Solas

- *Sola scriptura* - Scripture alone
- Justification is by
  - grace alone through
  - faith alone in
  - Christ alone to the
  - glory of God alone

**Therefore, since we have been  
justified by faith, we have peace with  
God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- Romans 5:1, ESV

# What is Justification?

- **God declares a sinner righteous on the basis of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.**
- **God makes a statement about a sinner that is not inherently true but is nevertheless made true because of Jesus. (JM definition)**

# Right with God

- *Not* like winning an argument
- Right = righteous = your relationship with God is free from conflict
- “Rightness” requires PERFECT obedience from the moment of birth until the moment of death

# Requires Jesus

- **Justification may be true of you, but not because of you.**
- **Only Jesus PERFECTLY obeyed God**

# Received by Faith

- **A sinner receives the perfect obedience of Jesus by claiming it on the authority of God's promise to give it to anyone who believes.**

# What is Justification?

- **God makes a statement about a sinner that is not inherently true, but is nevertheless made true because of Jesus.**
- **A sinner's response: "OK, I believe!"**

# Justification...so what?

- Peace with God
- You don't have to impress God
- We are able to serve God with unqualified confidence *in* Jesus
- Loud, celebratory worship...but not just on Sunday morning!