

Colossians Complement #11

simul iustus et peccator

A. Defining the phrase

- *simul iustus et peccator* is Latin for: simultaneously justified and a sinner
- Similar phrases concepts:
 - The saint-sinner reality
 - I'm just a sinner, saved by grace
 - I am saved; I am being saved; I will be saved
- The NT teaches several things happen to a person the moment he or she believes the gospel, including:
 - Justified = declared righteous (Rom. 3:28, Gal. 2:16)
 - Reconciled to God = at peace with God (Col. 1:21, Rom. 5:1)
 - Adopted = becomes a child of God (John 1:12, Gal. 3:26-4:7)
 - Saved = delivered from the penalty of sin (Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9)

B. The value of the two labels

<i>iustus</i>	<i>peccator</i>
<p>Primary value: ASSURANCE</p> <p>“justified” describes our legal status as righteous in God’s sight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification is obtained by God’s grace through faith in Christ. (Rom. 3:21-26) • Because we are justified by grace through faith in Christ, at which time our sin is no longer held against us, and Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us, we can be sure that we are justified. (Rom 4:5-8, 2 Cor. 5:18-21) • Being “justified” guarantees our eternal destiny. (Rom. 8:29-39) • To be a “sinner” has no bearing on the eternal destiny of the justified. Justification belongs to sinners. (Rom. 5:6-21, Eph. 2:1-9) 	<p>Primary value: HUMILITY</p> <p>“sinner” is NOT describing the identity of believers, but rather the possibility that we are still capable of sin and still do sin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because we did not stop sinning to become justified, we have only God to praise. (Rom. 3:27, Eph. 2:8-9) • Admitting our sin after falling into it restores our fellowship with God. (1 John 1:5-2:2) • Recognizing that we continue to sin gives us a reason to seek the Lord and His leading (Ps. 139:23-24, Col. 3:5-11). • Knowing our own moral weakness teaches us gentleness with others. (Gal. 6:1, Col. 3:13)

C. Contrasting views of identity

Roman Catholic view of identity

	Outside the body of Christ	Inside the body of Christ		
Identity	“In Adam”	“In Sanctifying Grace”		“In Mortal Sin”
Condition	cannot please God	pleasing God	“In Venial Sin” and with weakened relationship to God	children of wrath
Destiny	Hell	Heaven or Purgatory		Hell

- What makes a sin mortal?
 - (1) “grave matter,” (2) “full knowledge,” and (3) “deliberate consent.” And all “three conditions must together be met” (CCC, 1857).
- What is the consequence of a moral sin?
 - it “destroys in us the charity without which eternal beatitude is impossible. Unrepented, it brings eternal death.” (CCC, 1874)
 - “all mortal sins, even those of thought, render men children of wrath, and enemies of God, it is necessary to seek also for the pardon of them all from God, with an open and modest confession.” (Council of Trent, Session 14 ,1551)

Free Grace (Protestant) view of identity

	Outside the body of Christ	Inside the body of Christ	
Identity	“In Adam”	“In Christ”	
Condition	cannot please God	pleasing God, in fellowship, spiritual	not pleasing God, out of fellowship, carnal
Destiny	Hell	Heaven	

Discussion Questions

1. Which verse stood out to you tonight? Why?
2. Why is it valuable to know you are justified?
3. Why is it valuable to know you are a sinner?