

THE REFORMATION IN REVIEW

Reference: Miscellaneous Scripture
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October 31st is Halloween; but, that same date also represents the historic beginning of the Protestant Reformation. That date is sometimes called Reformation Day because it was on that night, October 31, 1517, that the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, nailed a document called his 95 theses to the door at Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany.

There were different reformers, such as John Wycliffe (1330-1384), John Huss (1369-1415), Huldreich Zwingli (1484-1531), John Knox (1513-1572), John Calvin (1509-15674) and numerous others; but, the most famous reformer was Martin Luther.

Luther was an Augustinian priest, monk, author and professor. He experienced great personal spiritual struggles. Luther did all the church required to excess but still felt he wasn't acceptable to God. Then he started teaching biblical and theology studies at the university and that completely changed his thinking. Through reading the book of Romans he discovered that full acceptance with God was available to him through simple faith in Jesus Christ and not through a mandated sacramental system of religious works. The theological word for being acceptable to God is **justification** and that doctrine ultimately became the theological fault line between the established church and the Protestant Reformers.

Protestant evangelical justification: In a **forensic** (legal) sense, justification means that at salvation, in a singular, unrepeatable, irrevocable, irreversible and instantaneous act, God once and for all _____ (forgives) someone from all his sins (past, present and future sins) and once and for all God _____ (or declares) that person righteous.

Catholic justification: In a **meritorious** sense, justification means that someone is justified in a _____ sense (not a forensic and legal sense) in part (not entirely but in part) on the basis of what he does to merit or earn that justification.

FORENSIC JUSTIFICATION (Protestant and Evangelical Christianity)	MERITORIOUS JUSTIFICATION (Roman Catholicism)
...an instantaneous _____ Reference: Luke 18:9-14 (see screen)	...a gradual _____
...righteousness is _____ Reference: Romans 4:3b (see screen)	...righteousness is _____
...a sinner is _____ righteous Reference: Romans 3:23 and 24 (see screen) <i>Imputed</i> righteousness means God _____ (declares) us _____ righteous and <i>infused</i> righteousness means God actually _____ us righteous.	...a sinner is _____ righteous
...is based on faith _____ (sola fide) Reference: Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:24; Romans 1:17 (see screen)	...is based on faith _____ works