

Lesson: Justification vs. Sanctification

Understanding Salvation According to the Scriptures (KJV)

One of the greatest sources of confusion for new believers is the difference between **justification** and **sanctification** (**How should the justified person now live.**). Many people treat them as though they are the same thing, but the Bible shows they are **two distinct works of YAH** that are closely connected.

A simple way to remember them is:

- **Justification** answers the question: "**How does a sinner become accepted before YAH?**"
 - **Sanctification** answers the question: "**How should the justified person now live?**"
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I. What is Justification?

Definition

Justification is YAH declaring a repentant believer **righteous (just)** because of faith in Ha Machiach. It is a judicial act of Elohim in which the sinner is forgiven and accepted into His family.

Justification is **not** making a person instantly perfect. Rather, it is Elohim's declaration that the believer's sins are forgiven because of Ha Machiach.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with Elohim through our Lord Yahshua Ha Machiach:

Notice:

- justified
- peace with Elohim

Peace comes after justification.

Romans 3:23-24

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of Elohim;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Ha Machiach Yahshua:

Everyone has sinned.

No one earns justification.

Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Paul is teaching that no one can erase past sins by trying to earn righteousness through works.

The Law can identify sin.

The Law cannot erase sin already committed.

Titus 3:5-7

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Justification is by mercy.

What happens when someone is justified?

They receive:

- forgiveness
- reconciliation
- peace with Elohim

- adoption into Elohim's family

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Ha Machiach Yahshua, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Lesson: Can a Person Lose Their Justification?

I. Justification Is Conditional Upon Continuing in the Faith

Colossians 1:21–23 (KJV)

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Notice:

- They **had been reconciled** (v. 21).
- Ha Machiach desired to present them holy (v. 22).
- Yet this promise is followed by "**If ye continue...**"

Paul does not say, "Since you once believed, nothing can change." Instead, he gives a condition.

II. A Branch Can Be Removed From Ha Machiach

Yahshua was speaking to His disciples.

John 15:1–6 (KJV)

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Notice:

Yahshua says,

"Every branch in me..."

Then later,

"If a man abide not in me..."

One cannot stop abiding unless he was first abiding.

III. Some Truly Believe Then Fall Away

Luke 8:13 (KJV)

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

Yahshua says:

- They **believe**.
- Then they **fall away**.

IV. Believers Are Warned Not to Depart

Hebrews 3:12–14 (KJV)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living Elohim.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Ha Machiach, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Notice:

Paul addresses

"brethren."

Then says

"if we hold..."

Again the condition.

V. The Just Can Draw Back

Hebrews 10:35–39 (KJV)

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of Elohim, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Notice:

The warning concerns

"the just."

The possibility described is

draw back unto perdition.

VI. It Is Possible to Fall From Grace

Galatians 5:1–4 (KJV)

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Ha Machiach hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Ha Machiach shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Ha Machiach is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Paul says plainly,

"ye are fallen from grace."

VII. Those Who Escape Can Become Entangled Again

2 Peter 2:20–22 (KJV)

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Yahshua Ha Machiach, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Peter says:

- They escaped.
 - They knew Ha Machiach.
 - They knew righteousness.
 - Then they turned back.
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VIII. Hebrews Describes Falling Away

Hebrews 6:4–6 (KJV)

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of Elohim, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim afresh, and put him to an open shame.

These people had:

- been enlightened,
- tasted the heavenly gift,
- become partakers of the Holy Ghost.

Yet Scripture says,

"If they shall fall away..."

IX. Continue in His Goodness

Romans 11:20–22 (KJV)

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if Elohim spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of Elohim: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.
Again,

if thou continue...

Otherwise,

thou also shalt be cut off.

X. Yahshua Requires Endurance

Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

XI. Overcoming Is Required

Revelation 3:5 (KJV)

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

The promise is specifically to

"He that overcometh."

XII. Does One Sin Cause a Person to Lose Justification?

The answer is **No**.

Believers still stumble.

1 John 1:8–10 (KJV)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

YAH has made provision for repentance and forgiveness.

Proverbs 24:16 (KJV)

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

The righteous man falls.

The difference is:

He gets back up through repentance and faith.

XIII. The Balance of Scripture

The Bible teaches two truths that must remain together.

Truth #1

A person is justified by the grace of YAH through faith.

Romans 5:1 (KJV)

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with Elohim through our Lord Yahshua Ha Machiach:

Truth #2

The justified believer must continue in that faith.

Hebrews 3:14 (KJV)

For we are made partakers of Ha Machiach, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Colossians 1:23 (KJV)

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...

Conclusion

According to the plain reading of these passages, **justification is not presented as a license to abandon Ha Machiach without consequence**. The New Testament repeatedly exhorts believers to:

- continue in the faith,
- abide in Ha Machiach,
- hold fast,
- endure unto the end,
- overcome,
- and not draw back.

At the same time, Scripture also distinguishes between a believer who **stumbles and repents** (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 24:16) and one who **persistently turns away from Ha Machiach** (Hebrews 3:12; 2 Peter 2:20–22).

The emphasis throughout the New Testament is not that YAH is eager to cast away His people, but that those who have been justified are called to remain in Ha Machiach by faith, trusting Him and walking in obedience until the end. This harmonizes the passages that proclaim justification by grace with the many warnings to continue faithfully in that grace.

II. What is Sanctification?

Sanctification means:

To be made holy.

It literally means to be **set apart unto Elohim**.

Unlike justification, sanctification (How should the justified person now live.) (How should the justified person now live.) is **a lifelong process**.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of Elohim, even your sanctification (How should the justified person now live.) (How should the justified person now live.), that ye should abstain from fornication:

Notice:

Sanctification affects behavior.

Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Holiness is not optional.

John 17:17

Yahshua prayed:

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

How are believers sanctified?

Through Elohim's Word.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Ha Machiach also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church...

Again:

Sanctification comes through Elohim's Word.

III. The Difference

Justification

Deals with

Past sins

It changes

Our standing before Elohim

Occurs

When we repent and believe

Result

Forgiveness

Sanctification (How should the justified person now live.)

Deals with

Present life

It changes

Our character

Occurs

Every day

Result

Growing in holiness

IV. Can someone be justified but refuse how the justified person should now live.)?

The Scriptures answer:

No.

The justified person begins walking in obedience.

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Elohim forbid.

Romans 6:22

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to Elohim, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Fruit unto holiness.

That is how the justified person should now live.).

V. Living a sanctified life without Yahshua does not earn justification

This is where many become confused.

Good works never purchase salvation.

They demonstrate genuine faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of Elohim:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Ha Machiach Yahshua unto good works...

Verse 10 follows verses 8 and 9.

We are not saved **by** good works.

We are saved **unto** good works.

VI. Faith produces obedience

James 2:17

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James is not contradicting Paul.

Paul explains how a sinner is justified.

James explains what genuine faith looks like afterward.

VII. A justified person is required to be obedient to Elohim.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Hebrews 5:9

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life...

VIII. Living a sanctified life is accomplished by the Holy Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Elohim hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through teaching the justified person how to live.) of/by the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Notice two elements:

- sanctification of the Spirit
 - belief of the truth
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Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance...

These are evidences of sanctification (How should the justified person now live.).

IX. We must continue living a righteous life.)

Justification begins the believers life.

Sanctification continues throughout life.

Colossians 1:22-23

22 (KJV) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope

of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Hebrews 3:14

For we are made partakers of Ha Machiach, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Matthew 24:13

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

X. The Goal of Living a Righteous life (Sanctification)

The goal is to become like Ha Machiach.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Simple Illustration for New Saints

Imagine a man who has been convicted of a crime and stands before the judge.

- The judge declares him forgiven and releases him. That pictures **justification**—his legal standing has changed.
- The man then goes home and begins living a new life, leaving behind his old ways and learning to obey the judge. That pictures **sanctification (how the forgiven person should live)**.

The release from guilt did not make him instantly mature, but it gave him the opportunity and responsibility to live differently.

Final Summary

Justification

- A **one-time** act of Elohim's grace.
- Forgives sin and declares the believer righteous.
- Received by grace through faith in Ha Machiach.
- Brings peace with Elohim.

Sanctification

- A lifelong work of Elohim in the believer.
- Sets the believer apart for holy living.
- Accomplished through the Holy Spirit and the Word of Elohim.
- Produces obedience, spiritual growth, and the fruit of righteousness.

The Scriptures present these truths together: **we are not justified by our works, yet the faith that justifies is never meant to remain alone.** Those whom YAH justifies, He calls to walk in holiness, growing in obedience as they continue in the faith until the end.