

Knowing How God Sees You! **Justified, Sanctified, and Righteous**

God sees us as co-heirs with Jesus to the Kingdom of Heaven. God's Word says so in Romans 8:17 - "Now if we are children, then we are heirs; heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory." So God sees you as family, and family is seen differently from just friends. God does not allow sin into heaven, so how can we go to heaven if we still mess up from time to time. Well first our hearts have to be in the right place in relation to Him. We have to truly believe in our hearts God's promise of salvation. The promise that if we believe that Jesus paid for the price of our sins and was raised from the dead, then we will be saved (Romans 10:9). When we do so and meditate on it deeply, we have the promise of being saved and being justified. Justification is the act by which God moves a believer from a state of sin to a state of grace and mercy (salvation). Then we become sanctified as well. Sanctification is when God sets you apart (because of your faith) for a special purpose that is holy and sacred. It is a process of becoming more like Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 says, "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." And Acts 26:18 says, "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me". We still are not perfect, but God (through the Spirit) comes to live in your heart. Ephesians 3:17 says, "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.." Jesus Christ dwells in our spirit. He is the source of our lives." So if God is in your heart, He gives you the power to overcome sinful ways and to live a righteous life. Righteousness is the state of being morally correct and justifiable which is how God now sees us when we are saved. Hallelujah! 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Wow! Stop and think about all of this for a minute.

We once were sinners saved by grace, but now we are the children of God, heirs to His kingdom in heaven. God has made us whole- justified, sanctified, and righteous which is something we can not do on our own. Only by faith in God's covenant through Jesus can this happen and it makes us heirs to His kingdom. So look at yourself as God views you- loved, in grace, set apart for special things, and clean!