

LIFE Talk • October 29, 2025

BIBLE & THEOLOGY—WHY IT MATTERS

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18



TODAY'S TOPIC

Why is Justification Such a BIG Deal?

In such a time as this, how does the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification help us to live into the reality of Jesus' prayer (John 17) for the unity of the church? Be reminded what Jesus Christ brings to a world in need of healing and wholeness.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER



Rev. Dr. Winston D. Persaud is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. A native of Guyana, he served his home congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, prior to joining the Wartburg faculty in February 1984. His teaching and research are focused on defining and confessing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world of religious and non-religious alternatives.

Replay videos available at saintandrews.org/LIFEU

LIFE Group Sheet

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GETTING STARTED

Share in a spiritual practice, discuss an igniter question, and/or begin with prayer.

Creator God, thank you for the opportunity to gather with each person here, to grow in faith and knowledge together, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Bless our time, our conversation, and how we care for one another. Amen.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Briefly share (in pairs or 3s) your initial reaction to what you heard in the LIFE Talk.

Prompts: What stood out to you? What is stirring inside of you? What are you thinking, feeling, or wondering about?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In light of what you have been learning in these sessions of LIFEU on the Doctrine of Justification—by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone—what would you say to a child, grandchild, or friend, who is struggling with the divisions among the churches?
2. At this point, how would you explain the Doctrine of Justification to someone who is burdened with a deep sense of guilt and shame?
3. Given what you have learned in these sessions, how would you answer the question: why is the Doctrine of Justification such a big deal?

CLOSING PRAYER

Offer a prayer to draw your time to a close, using one of your own or the one below.

God of wisdom and beauty, thank you for this time together. Help us as we live out our faith this week and share what we have learned. Make us instruments of your peace and healing love, as we grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

To join a LIFE Group, contact Sue Lennartson at slennartson@saintandrews.org