

Series: Imago Dei

Sermon: Image Bearing and Our Neighbors: Becoming a People of Righteousness (Pt 1)

Scripture: Romans 3:21-25 (ESV)

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Romans 3:21-25 (ESV)

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—*

²² *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

²⁴ *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

²⁵ *whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*

Two weeks ago:

Image Bearing and Neighbors: Becoming a People of Mercy

This week:

Image Bearing and Our Neighbors: Becoming a People of Righteousness (Part 1)

Next week:

Image Bearing and Our Neighbors: Becoming a People of Righteousness (Part 2)

Definition of the use of "righteousness" in the Bible:

"The basic meaning of 'righteousness' and its cognates in the Bible derives from the Hebrew *sedeq*, which was usually translated in the Greek as *dikaioσynē*. It thus denotes...as right standing and consequent right behavior, within a community. English translates this semantic field with two different roots: 'right', 'righteous', and 'righteousness' and 'just', 'justice', 'justify' and 'justification'. In Heb. and Gk., however, these ideas all belong together linguistically and theologically."

New Dictionary of Theology. David F. Wright, Sinclair B. Ferguson, J.I. Packer (eds), 590-592. IVP.

Our right standing before God...

Remember the "5 Pillar Gospel"

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption
4. Restoration
5. Consummation

Psalm 119:137-138

Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are Your rules. You have appointed Your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

Romans 3:10-12

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 3:20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified (to render righteous or such as he ought to be) in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21-25

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Galatians 2:21

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Matthew 3:15

Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

I don't think there's any more important text in all the New Testament that defines the work of Jesus than this one. That Jesus was sent to fulfill all righteousness.

R.C. Spoul from <<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/jesus-our-righteousness/>>

How is Jesus fulfilling all righteousness for us?

Jesus is our passive righteousness.

The passive obedience of Christ refers to His willingness to submit to the pain that is inflicted upon Him by the Father on the cross in the atonement. He passively receives the curse of God there. - R.C. Sproul

from <<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/jesus-our-righteousness/>>

Jesus is our active righteousness.

The active obedience refers to His whole life of obeying the Law of God whereby He qualifies to be the Savior. He qualifies to be the Lamb without blemish. He qualifies for the song, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain," through His total righteousness. He fulfills the Law's demands...Jesus not only had to die for our sins, he had to live for our righteousness." - R.C. Sproul

from <<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/jesus-our-righteousness/>>