



# The 39 Articles

## *The faith we confess*



Spring 2026

“Can non-Christians  
do anything  
to please God?”

# Micah 6:8

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*



Article XI: Of the justification of man  
or **Our Need For Faith**

*“We will never become perfect while living in this broken world, but we can aim for perfection as we model ourselves after Jesus (Romans 8:29). God was ‘well pleased’ with His Son (Matthew 3:17), and the more we resemble Jesus, the more we will also please God.*

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**What do you think?**

# Article XI: Of the justification of man or **Our Need For Faith**

We are accounted righteous before God solely on account of the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through faith and not on account of our own good works or of what we deserve.

Consequently the teaching that we are justified by faith alone is a most wholesome and comforting doctrine.

This is taught more fully in the homily on Justification.

# Article XI: Of the justification of man or **Our Need For Faith**

1. The **need** for justification: *why are we not right before God?*
2. The **nature** of justification: *what does justification mean?*
3. The **basis** of justification: *whose work matters?*
4. The **means** of justification: *how are we justified?*
5. The **response** to justification: *how should we respond?*

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Job 25:4

*How then can a man be righteous before God?*

*How can one born of woman be pure?*

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Romans 3:23

*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

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Romans 4:23-25

*The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,<sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit **righteousness**—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.<sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification**.*

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1. The need for justification: *why are we not right before God?*
2. The **nature** of justification: *what does justification mean?*

2 Corinthians 5:21

*God made him who had no sin  
to be sin for us,  
so that in him  
we might become the **righteousness** of God.*

# JUSTIFICATION / RIGHTEOUSNESS

✘ *spiritual condition*

✔ *spiritual relation*



***sin***

*guilt >> removed*

*condemnation >> forgiveness*

*separation >> fellowship*



*actual state*



*judicial position*



***> pardon***

*an act that changes attitude*

*complete & never repeated!*

*bestowal of perfect standing*

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Ephesians 2:8-10

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—  
—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—  
9 not by works, so that no-one can boast.*

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and not on account of our own good works or of what we  
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Genesis 15:6

*Abram believed the Lord,  
and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

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John 1:2

*Yet to all who received him,  
to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God*

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Romans 1:16-17

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

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*Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Saviour, or I die.*

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Romans 3:21-24

*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

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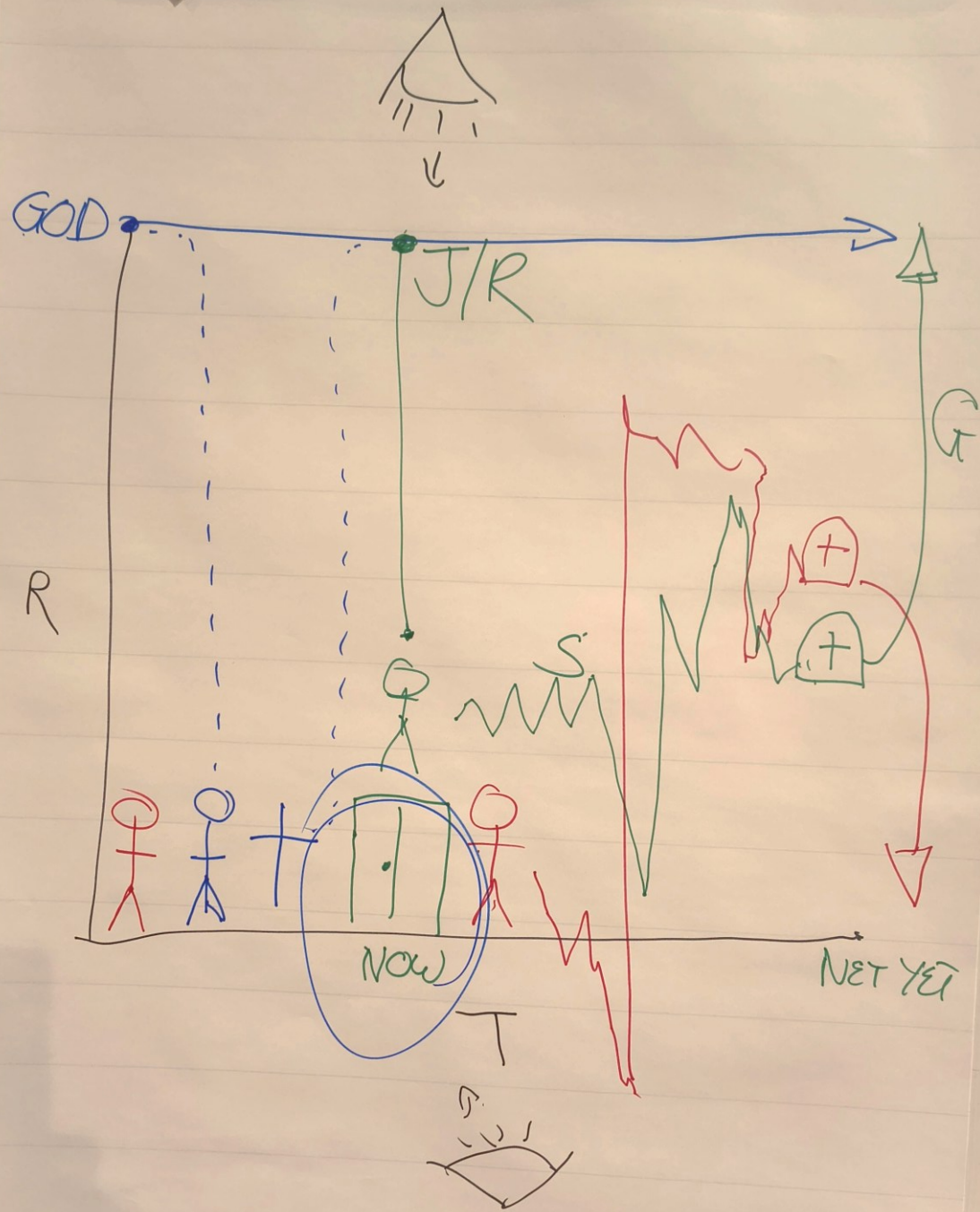
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*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no-one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

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Comments *etc*



## Closing Prayer (together)

Merciful father, judge of all people and redeemer of those who put their faith in you:

fill our hearts with gratitude and joy for the robes of righteousness in which you clothe us,

through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ.

Amen