

I have owned at least twenty lawn mowers in my war on grass. I had a push mower that never seemed to cut well because it was not sharp and I really did not know how to sharpen one. I had a mower left in the garage of a house I bought in Colorado that refused to start unless I sprayed the carburetor with very flammable spray from a pressurized can. I one mower that I ran using denatured alcohol. Some of my war tools had pull starters, some had electric starters. One was self-propelled. I have permanently loaned two of my latest weapons of grass destruction to my son. I had one that smoked so badly that the EPA could well classify it as a gross polluter.

Each one to a machine was designed to cut the overgrowth of grass down to a perfect two and one half inches. My goal with each and all of these spinning contraptions was to create the perfect lawn. You have seen those lawns. Not a blade of grass out of place. The uniformity of the turf could well be described as a carpet of luxury. Never-the-less, the next day, no matter how good the mower was and no matter how contentiously the lawn was edged, there would be little blades out of place. Perfection lost.

The typical keeper of the lawn has a number of choices: Let it grow until the city comes by and leaves you a nice compliance note, stop watering and let it all die all in the name of water conservation, or hire someone to do it for you. Since I have loaned my last mower to someone that needed it more than I, the local landscaper comes by every two weeks and cuts my lawn. No more fighting the battle of the lawn. It still looks a little ragged by the second week but I have learned that there is a peace in letting someone else take responsibility for my lawn. I can simply give up and give it to someone else.

There is a parable in this missive. Sometimes, if not all the time, we need to just give up and let God do what he does best. God doing the lawn work of my life. If a little blade seems to be out of place, then my responsibility is to let God show to take care of it. His response maybe to instruct me to do something about the errant grass, His response may well to let him handle it, or He may provide a new tool to do the work. But I have given my personal life to God. But the most important and most gratifying of giving my life to God (including my lawn) is that He gives peace.

Peace is a gift from God. We do not make peace with God. We receive peace as a boon when we come to a penitent trust in Him. He is my peace.

Romans 5:1-11

The first fruit of Justification is Peace

Peace in Hebrew is SHALOM – the soul's health, happiness and well-being in God

We have come from a place of wrath to a place of worship

We are not merely pardoned; we have introduced into the very presence of God (ACCESS)

Through Christ we have entered into a state of grace in which we "REJOICE" in the hope of the Glory of God (2)

Peace merges into Joy.

Peace and joy are twin blessings in the scripture.

FF Bruce. Peace is joy resting; joy is peace dancing.

*Shadrach Meshach and Abednego in the furnace. They were seen by the King and walking around with fourth.

“In which we now stand” Triumph, resolve, action, defiance

The second fruit of Justification is Joy

Three objects of joy

1. Rejoice in [our] hope of the glory of God.
 - a. This is what God created us for.
 - i. Glorious communion
 - ii. Perfected love
 - iii. Glorious presence with nothing between
 - iv. Today we see through a glass darkly, but soon face to face
 - b. We see glimmers of this communion.
 - i. Joy in our lives
 - ii. Joy in our fellowship
 1. It is not meant to be a chore to be around other Christians
 2. It is not meant to be something we do.
2. Rejoice in our sufferings
 - a. Afflictions are to be viewed as normal experiences for Christians
 - i. Part of life
 1. Suffer to forgive
 2. Suffer to forget
 3. Suffer to persevere
 4. Suffer to make a difference
 5. Suffer embarrassment
 - ii. It is not to be seen as strange. It happens
 - iii. It leads to something else 3-4
 1. Perseverance, (muscle memory)
 2. Character
 3. Hope

The third fruit of Justification is Hope

aspiration, desire, wish, expectation, ambition, aim, goal, plan, design

Hope is not “I hope my team wins the Super Bowl” or “I hope I get a raise.” Biblical hope is not a hope-so but it is a know-so. It isn’t wishing for the best. It isn’t waiting to see what happens and hope that it turns out well. Hope is not a feeling or an emotion. Hope is the knowledge of facts. If someone says to you that “I hope you have a good day,” there is no guarantee that the day will go well. To have a biblical hope is to have a sure anchor of the soul, not hoping for rain because the forecast says that there is a 60% chance of rain and you hope that you get your garden watered. That is not hope...that is wishful thinking and it is utterly undependable and has no power to bring anything to pass.

A Christian's definition of hope is far superior to that of the world. Instead of wishing or hoping for something to happen, a believer knows that their hope is solid, concrete evidence because it is grounded in the Word of God and we know that God cannot lie ([Heb 6:18](#); Num 23:19).

Verse 5

1. Hope that does not put us to shame.
2. Hope that does not embarrass
3. Hope that will always be true
 - a. Because this hope is based upon God's love
 - b. In our hearts through the Holy spirit
 - c. A new gift.

The Fourth Fruit of Justification is Love

V 6 While we were still sinners (past tense) Christ Died for us.

The greatest of these is love

We love because He loved – an answering love. A responsive love. A reciprocal love.

1. Prevenient grace. God reaching out. Awakening us in our slumber.
2. We would all be still in our sins if it were not for the pulling.
3. We would all be still in our sins if it were not for the sacrifice.
 - a. Here is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son. I John 4:10
 - b. Behind the cross
 - i. Self giving
 - ii. Self sacrificing
 - iii. Love of God
 - iv. The cross did not make God merciful
 1. It is not the method of change of God
 2. It is a revealer of the existing LOVE of God V10
4. This love floods our heart and cancels all fear of the promised wrath

The true fruit of justification is peace, joy, hope and love.

So let us boast.v11

Hi I am Larry

I am justified in Christ:

I have a Peace that no unjustified person can know

I have a joy that causes me to boast of my relationship with the creator of the universe

I have a hope that will not and cannot ever be disappointed

I have a love that is undeniable from God and to God and to everyone.

