

Upon what righteous basis may God justify the ungodly?

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness (NASB; Rom. 4:5).

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (NASB; II Cor. 5:21).

For the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (NASB; Rom. 3:26).

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith (NASB; Phil. 3:8-9).

The only righteous basis upon which God may justify the ungodly is by imputing unto them Christ's very own sinless righteousness.

It is not simply **because** of this righteousness that Jehovah justifies; but by **legally transferring** it to us, so that we can use it, and plead it, and appear before God in it, just as if it were wholly our own. . . . The transaction is not one of **borrowing**. The perfection made over to us is **given**, not **lent**, by God. It becomes ours in law; ours for all legal ends; ours as efficaciously as if it had been from first to last our own in very deed.

~Horatius Bonar, *The Everlasting Righteousness*

