

Study Guide: Justification, Grace

To study the topic of justification and grace, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What does the quotation from Athanasius indicate that justification means? How is this supported by the scripture passages quoted or alluded to? (CCC 1987-1988)
2. Describe the “first grace of the Holy Spirit” in justification. (CCC 1989)
3. How does this “first grace” work in us? (CCC 1990-1991)
4. If justification is merited by Christ’s blood, how is it conferred? What does it do to us? (CCC 1992, 1266)
5. What is the relationship between justification and sanctification? (CCC 1993-1995)
6. If a person “loses his justification” through grave (mortal) sin, how can he get it back? (CCC 1446)
7. What is a “grace” as Catholics understand the term? Into what relationship with God does it place us? (CCC 1996-1997)
8. According to the Catechism, can you earn God’s grace? Why or why not? What is the Holy Spirit’s role, here? (CCC 1999, 2001)

9. What is *sanctifying grace*? What scriptural evidence exists that “sanctifying grace” exists? What is actual grace? Explain the difference. (CCC 2000)

10. If Catholics do not believe in the doctrine of eternal security, what does it mean to call sanctifying grace *habitual*? (CCC 2000-2001)

11. If grace always comes from God, what is the role of man? (CCC 2002)

12. What three kinds of graces does the Spirit give to enable us to cooperate in his work? Define and give an example of each. (CCC 2003-2004)

13. If we cannot rely on our feelings to assure us that we are in God’s grace, how can we know that we are? (CCC 2005)

14. What is *merit* in the ordinary sense of the word? From what fact does the merit of man before God arise? (CCC 2006-2008)

15. If a person is good, can he merit forgiveness of sin and justification? How does he get it? (CCC 2009-2010)

16. When we speak of the “merits of the saints” or the “merits of good works,” what are we actually speaking about? (CCC 2011)