

GROUPE C

1. Introduction (link with ARCIC I)

" The Church is the community of those reconciled with God and with each other because it is the community of those who believe in Jesus Christ and are justified through God's grace" (Intro., n.8). Justification is a problem for some Christians, and is of significance for all. Even if the language of justification sounds antique, the idea for which it stands is concerned with an existential question for today.

2.. Salvation and justification

- a) What salvation is.
- b) The N.T. expresses this by many different terms of which justification is one.
- c) Justification is a metaphor drawn from the lawcourt, representing God as the divine judge.
- d) It implies the redeemed person is given a title to heaven because of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

3. Difficulties that arose from the emphasis on justification in 16th century controversies

- a) Is the person given a title to heaven irrespective of his will and of his moral state?
- b) I.e. does the goodness of the justified person please God and therefore merit reward?
- c) Is there a disjunction between justification and sanctification?
- d) In other words, is justification imparted as well as imputed?
- e) The role of faith in this process.

4. Salvation is mediated by the Church

- a) The Church is the reconciling and reconciled community.
- b) The role of the sacraments.
- c) The action of the Holy Spirit.
- d) There is no real antithesis between faith and sacraments.
- e) This applies especially to baptism

5. The expressions of salvation in the understanding of the Church

- a) Absolution
- b) Indulgences
- c) Purgatory

These beliefs are not essential to a right understanding of salvation, but are compatible with it. They must not and need not be conceived in such a way as to distort the doctrine of salvation.

Such a penitential system is designed to allow for the frailties of human nature and at the same time to maintain the holiness of the Church.