

Logic: The Four Causes

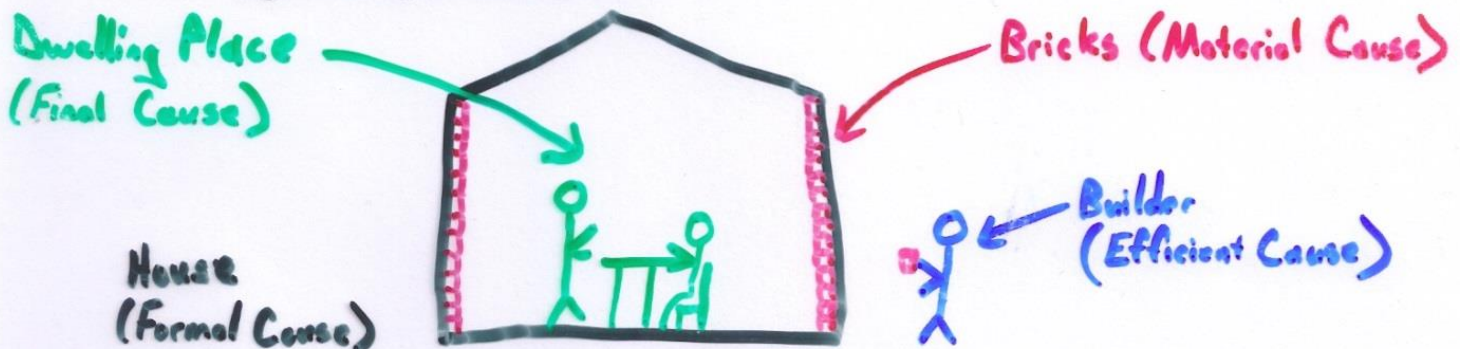
"A cause is something that brings about an effect, and every effect has one or more causes."

Formal Cause: what kind of thing it is; the thing's nature or essence (the form of the thing)

Material Cause: what a thing is composed of; the matter

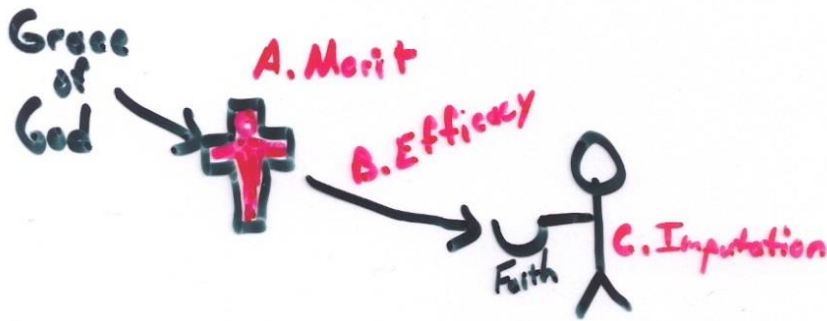
Efficient Cause: who or what made a thing or keeps it in existence; the external agent that brings it into existence or sustains it

Final Cause: the purpose or potential use of a thing; the reason or purpose the agent brings the thing about



"The Testimonies of Scripture...Pertaining to the Article of Justification" by Martin Chemnitz (*Loci Theologici*, Volume II, p.545-557)

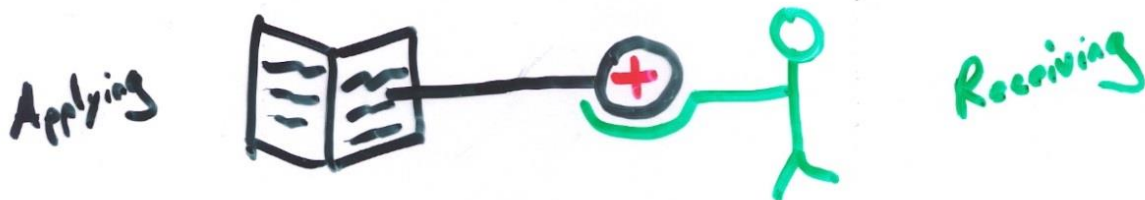
Causes		Chemnitz on Terminology
<u>Formal</u>	house (a particular kind of building)	<u>Justification(Righteousness)</u> : The remission of sins or our acceptance unto life eternal freely given, by the grace of God, through and for the sake of Christ in the Gospel, and it is apprehended by faith. (p.554)
<u>Material</u>	wood and bricks (the material)	the obedience of Christ ① (the material)
<u>Efficient</u> (working)	Builder (agent)	God (agent) or the Grace of God (p.548) ② "Further, because the will of God is the first cause (<i>prima causa</i>), we must not seek any other cause prior to or beyond the grace of God." (p.549)
<u>Final</u>	dwelling place for humans (purpose)	The person to be justified ③



Chemnitz says some speak of Two Efficient Causes for our Justification

Material	the obedience of Christ ① (the material)	<u>Two Efficient Causes</u> 1. The Grace of God 2. Christ the Mediator a. Merit – His Work ① b. Efficacy – He effects the deliverance and application. ② c. Imputation – It is imputed to us. ③
Efficient (working)	God (agent) or the Grace of God (p.548) ② “Further, because the will of God is the first cause (<i>prima causa</i>), we must not seek any other cause prior to or beyond the grace of God.” (p.549)	

“There is a second efficient or working cause for our justification, namely Christ in and with His whole work as Mediator.... On this basis we can explain the rationale for saying that Christ the Mediator, with His work, is the efficient cause of our justification” (p.550).



Application of Causes to the Person

Instrumental Causes	<u>Chemnitz puts these under Efficient Causes</u>
	<u>Two-fold Application</u> 1. Voice of the <u>Gospel</u> , Teaching, revealing, offering 2. <u>Faith</u> , Receiving or laying hold on these blessings... “...the efficient causes, without the application, profit nothing toward our salvation.”

“It is absolutely necessary that there be an application of these causes to the person who is to be justified... This method or means of applying or apprehending the benefits of Christ is for the sake of clear teaching called the **instrumental cause** (*causa instrumentalis*)” (p.552)

Grace ②



Completed
Merit

Atonement

Promise ①
in
Word and
Sacraments



"Whoever believes
will be saved."

Justification

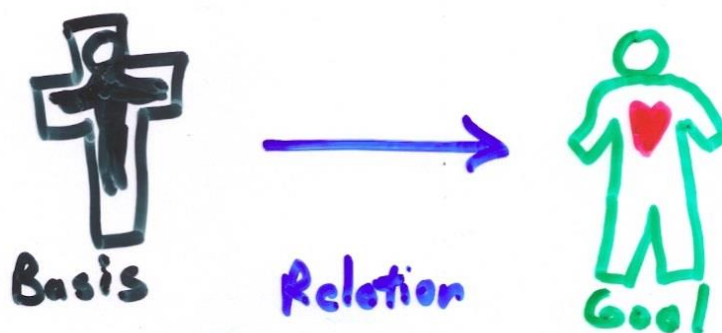
Scripture
Lutheran Confessions

All Causes together with Application = Relation

"Some suggest the formal cause is faith, some Christ, others the mercy of God, others forgiveness of sins or acceptance.... But the matter is clear.	<i>My Explanation: You are not yet justified until the end of the process.</i>
Faith in itself, as a quality without Christ, is not our formal righteousness.	<i>Faith in my trusting ≠ justification</i>
And Christ, unless He is apprehended by faith, is not your(<i>tua</i>) righteousness.	<i>Christ (without my faith) ≠ justification</i>
But if faith lays hold on Christ, but does not in Him also lay hold on the grace and mercy of God, it does not thereby establish that it will receive forgiveness of sins or acceptance, and it is certainly lacking the form of righteousness before God.	<i>Faith in Christ because I earned it ≠ justification (e.g. Faith in Christ and good works)</i>
For justification is absolution or acceptance. Thus when all of these are included at the same time, in their own order, then nothing is lacking from our righteousness before God. This is the formal cause of justification." (p.554).	<i>Only after faith in the Word which presents Christ by grace is someone justified!</i>

Chemnitz on Justification & Imputation

- ① Basis
(*fundamentum*)
- ③ Relation
(*relatio*)
- ② Goal
(*terminus*)



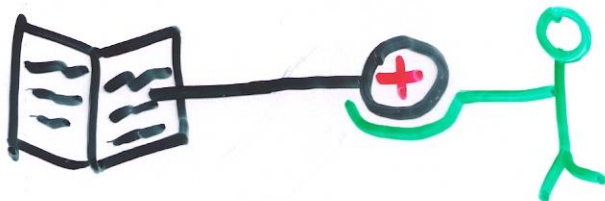
Goal or Final Cause (p.555)

The effects of justification "namely salvation and eternal life." "Renewal is an effect or result of justification." "In the case of justification, which is the full and perfect acceptance of the believer unto eternal life...."

Imputation p.528-531

- Basis** (*fundamentum*)
- Goal** (*terminus*)
- Relation** (*relatio*)

Applying



Receiving