

ROMANS

PART 2: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

One of the five rallying cries of the Reformation was the statement that we are saved by faith alone — sola fide! These words declared that salvation does not come from looking at our own works of righteousness, but from looking outside ourselves to another, to the person and work of Jesus Christ. It speaks to the minds and hearts of people all throughout history because it tackles one of the fundamental questions of our human condition: How can a person be right with God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you ask an average person on the street “how can you be made right with God?” What do you think they'd say?
2. Boxer Muhammad Ali says ““One day we're all going to die, and God's going to judge us, good and bad deeds. If the bad outweighs the good, you go to hell; if the good outweighs the bad, you go to heaven.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Read Romans 3:21-28.
 - a. Give the full significance of “apart from the law.” What does that mean? (v. 21).
 - b. What is the significant of the word “all”? What is the implication? (v.23)
 - c. What does “freely” mean? (v.24)
 - d. We are justified “by” and “through” something (v.24) Explain.
 - e. Why can't God just declared us righteous without Jesus having be a sacrifice? (v.25-26)
4. Justification by faith means “God declares us righteous in his sight when we believe in Jesus as our Saviour. What is so important about understanding “Justification by Faith” vs “Justification by Works” as the means of salvation? What is at stake if we get this doctrine wrong?
5. How can understanding this doctrine of “Justification by faith” helps you in your day-to-day walk with Christ?

MOVING FORWARD

“Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.” (Romans 3:27–28 NIV)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Justification by faith is the instantaneous and irreversible divine declaration of the unrighteous as positionally righteous, based upon the merit of Christ's obedience, applied by grace and received through faith (Rom. 3.24-28; 4.1-5; 5.1-2). God declares the unjust to be just based upon Christ's work for them.