

**Romans 3:27-31**

*“Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.”*

If justification is by faith alone, then there are implications of that justification in our lives.

**1. Justification by faith alone is the end of boasting**  
**(v.27-28)**

Verse 28 has stood as a hallmark verse to the Protestant Reformation for over 500 years. The leader of the reformation, Martin Luther, when translating the New Testament added the word alone. He wanted Romans 3:28 to read, *“For, we hold that one is justified by faith ALONE apart from works of the law.”* This was to ensure readers knew it was only faith that justifies.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

***For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.***

*“Faith’s empty hand receives the free gift of grace, and that very fact excludes all boasting.”<sup>1</sup> – Charles Spurgeon*

*Reflection Question:*

*To establish my standing before God, do I look to my works, or do I look to Christ in faith?*

## **2. Justification by faith alone is the end of Distinctions (v.29-30)**

One of the beautiful implications we see of justification by faith alone is this, it's not just Jews but it's a message for everyone. God has a heart for the world. For all nations. There are no distinctions.

**Romans 3:22**

***the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:***

Since there is only one God. He will justify the circumcised BY faith and the uncircumcised THROUGH faith. All distinctions are removed. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

**Galatians 3:28**

***“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”***

*Reflection Question:*

*Do I have distinctions in my heart and life that the gospel has released me from?*

## **3. Justification by faith alone is: the end of Confusion (v.31)**

Do we live by the law, or do we live by faith? If we live by faith, then is the law pointless? Paul helps us see this more clearly.

There is a concept known as antinomianism. “The word *antinomianism* comes from two Greek words, *anti*, meaning "against"; and *nomos*, meaning "law." *Antinomianism* means “against the law.” Theologically, antinomianism is the belief that there are no moral laws God expects Christians to obey.”<sup>2</sup>

Justification by faith alone, doesn't mean we throw out the law, no on the contrary, we establish the law. Faith establishes the law.

- The ceremonial law - was regarding sacrifices and other ceremonies regarding uncleanness – this was fulfilled through Christ's substitutionary sacrifice on the cross
- The civil law – was unique to Israel as a distinct nation
- The moral law – this is the Ten Commandments and very much in effect today.

The law ultimately acts as point of conviction for us to see our sin and how we've fallen short. We don't throw it out, but we use it.

Let your faith establish the law and rest completely on Christ's finished work.

*Reflection Question:*

*Does my faith support a lifestyle that seeks to honor and establish God's moral law?*

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Spurgeon, “*Justice Vindicated and Righteousness Exemplified*” (Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, England, 1865).

<sup>2</sup> “What is Antinomianism?” *Got Questions*, <https://www.gotquestions.org/antinomianism.html>.