

Understanding Justification

“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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10).

“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:26).

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works” (James 2:21-22).

“Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness” (Rom. 4:4-5).

“But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:23-24).

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
(Rom. 6:1)

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal 5:25).

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...” (Gal. 5:16ff).

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ But the law is not of faith, rather ‘The one who does them shall live by them.’ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:11-14)

Grace without faith is universalism.

Faith without grace is vanity.

Faith without works is hypocrisy.

Works without faith is legalism.

“By grace... through faith... for good works”
(Eph. 2:8-10)

Grace is the means.

Faith is the condition.

Works are the manifestation of faith.