



The Roots of the Reformation
"Sola Fide" (Faith Alone)
Romans 3:21-26

July 6, 2014

WHY SOLA FIDE?

I. Because we need the "Righteousness of God" himself (v21)

RIGHTEOUSNESS -

1. in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God

1. integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting. (read it again slowly) –

MacArthur states that Paul is declaring, "That the righteousness God gives believers is entirely **apart from** obedience to any law, even God's own revealed law. God's righteousness is in no way based on human achievement, on anything that man can do in his own power."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

II. BECAUSE IT FIXES OUR HOPE ON JESUS ALONE (v22a)

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man^[a] Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

“The provision of salvation and the righteousness it brings is granted for all of those who believe. Anyone will be saved who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, for there is no distinction.” - MacArthur

III. BECAUSE OUR BEST WORKS ARE COVERED IN SIN (V22b-23)

Isaiah 64:6a

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness’s are as **filthy rags**”*

IV. BECAUSE IT IS GOD ALONE WHO JUSTIFIES, REDEEMS AND PROPITIATES THROUGH CHRIST ALONE(V24-25a)

JUSTIFICATION – declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.

Romans 4:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in^[a] him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

REDEMPTION - a releasing effected by payment of ransom

1. redemption, deliverance
2. liberation procured by the payment of a ransom

PROPITIATION - Carries the idea of appeasement or satisfaction. The satisfaction of the wrath of God.

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the **precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb **without blemish or spot**.

V. BECAUSE IT IS BY FAITH ALONE THAT WE RECEIVE ALL OF THAT CHRIST HAS DONE (V25b)

*“We are justified not merely by faith, but by faith in Christ; not because of what faith is, but because of what faith lays hold of and receives. We are not saved **for** believing but **by** believing. In the application of justification, faith is not the builder but a beholder; it has nothing to give or achieve, but has all to receive. Faith is neither the ground nor substance of our justification, but the hand, the instrument, the vessel which receives the divine gift proffered to us in the gospel.” – Beeke*

VI. BECAUSE IT IS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (v25c-26)

Food For Thought: repentant sinners are forgiven and justified (declared righteous by God) by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, who demonstrates the love, mercy and justice of God by his perfect life, death and resurrection.

- 1. How would most people you know react to the statement in v.23, “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?”**
- 2. What is the “righteousness” of God (vv. 21-22) and how was Jesus able to fulfil the law ?**
- 3. The reformer Martin Luther among many other greats of the faith had their lives changed by this passage. How is the message of God’s grace to you by faith in Christ impacting your life?**

Bible Text
Romans 3:21-26 (ESV)

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Summer at C.C.C Continues! Sunday, July 13, we conclude our summer series look at the *Roots of the Reformation*, with the final doctrine and “sola,” that gave us the motive, the ultimate ‘why’ of the reformation- *God’s Grace Alone (Soli Deo Gloria)*.

Have your Friends and Family Ever Wondered:

- ***What is the difference between Christianity and Jehovah’s Witnesses? Mormonism? Islam? Catholicism? Judaism? Why does it matter?***

Invite friends and family to the *Summer at CCC* in the quest to make disciples and get answers to such questions - Later this summer...*Christianity vs. the World*

July 20 – Christianity vs. Mormonism

July 27 – Christianity vs Jehovah’s Witnesses

C.C.C. Media Ministry: if you missed a recent message and would like to catch-up or would like to download them to your MP3 player, you can access our most recent inventory at [http://www.sermonaudio.com/ christcommchurch](http://www.sermonaudio.com/christcommchurch). **Our sermons are now available in Spanish on this site.**



sermonaudio.com

Pastor Bernie's weekly "My Captive Thought" blog is available on-line at <http://mycaptiveThought.wordpress.com/>.

Our Mission: Christ Community Church exists to worship God, fellowship in community and build the body of Christ by making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them until the Lord Jesus Christ returns (Acts 2:42-47, Mt. 28:18-20, Eph. 4:11-16).

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"Love God, Love People"



And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers. – Acts 2:42 (NKJV)