

**“A Boast-Free, One-Way-For-All, Law-Fulfilling Justification”**

**Romans 3:27-31**

**December 13, 2020**

**I. Justification by Faith Alone Rules Out Boasting (Rom. 3:27-28)**

A. “Law” in vs. 27 means “system”.

1. A faith-based system rules out boasting.
2. Justification by faith alone is that very system.
3. Thus, it must be preferred to a performance-based system that leaves room for human boasting.

B. This was an argument that should have appealed to the Jews who should have known about the Old Testament’s condemnation of boasting:

*Judges 7:2 - <sup>2</sup> The Lord said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, ‘My own power has delivered me.’”*

*Psalms 5:5 - The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.*

*Jeremiah 9:23–24 - <sup>23</sup> Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.*

*Isaiah 10:15 - Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? That would be like a club wielding those who lift it, Or like a rod lifting him who is not wood*

C. Yet many Jews were given to boasting (though so was everyone else, including the earliest Christians).

*Romans 2:23 - You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?*

*(Romans 1:30 – [Paul to everyone]...slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents...)*

*(1 Corinthians 4:7 – [Paul to Christians] For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?)*

D. We are still given to boasting, which is why salvation is the way it is:

*Ephesians 2:8–9 - <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**II. Justification by Faith Alone is Consistent with God’s Own Being (Rom. 3:29-30)**

A. Justification could not have come from the Law.

1. For only the Jews had the Law.
2. Yet God had also promised to also save the Gentiles.

*Romans 15:12 - Again Isaiah says, “There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.”*

3. What was required was a justification without the Law, a justification by faith.
- B. This one-way of justification for everyone was based on the oneness of God's own nature.
- C. This single justification means that the One God's people are already united and reconciled.

*Ephesians 2:14–16* - <sup>14</sup> For he [Christ] himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

### **III. Justification by Faith Alone Upholds the Law (vs. 31)**

- A. "Nullify" means "to make empty" or "to declare useless".
- B. Instead of *nullifying* the Law, justification by faith *fulfills* it.
  1. The Law's primary purpose was to point out sin so that people would seek salvation outside of themselves or their performance.
  2. Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, begin to actually keep some of God's commandments in ways that were impossible before they were saved.
  3. Justification is founded upon Christ's own complete fulfillment of the Law (both its commands and its judicial demands).