Series: Rediscovering the Reformation

**Sola Fide: Only Faith is Asked of You**

Romans 3:27-28, November 19, 2017

Sola Fide: We receive the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone, but true faith is evidenced by love and good works.

Martin Luther [on Romans 1:17]: I hated that word, 'the righteousness of God,' by which I had been taught... [that] God is righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner.

Brother Andre Marie (Catholicism.org): I find that the vast majority of Protestants believe one can be saved without any particular faith “as long as you’re a good person and don’t hurt anyone.”

1. Faith alone isn’t faith in faith alone.

*Faith doesn’t save, Jesus does!*

1. Faith isn’t positive thinking that it will all work out in the end.
* Romans 3:23-24 *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*
1. Faith isn’t just agreement with various truths about God.
* James 2:19 *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*
1. Faith isn’t just faith in itself, it trusts in the One who can rescue.
* Galatians 2:16 *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.*
* B.B. Warfield: It is not faith that saves, but faith in Jesus.

Q. Why did Luther hate “the righteousness of God?” How did he come to delight in it?

Q. What’s the difference between faith and positive thinking?

Q. What’s the difference between true faith and belief in a creed?

2. Faith alone isn’t faith that is alone.

*Faith that doesn’t work, doesn’t save!*

1. The only verse that mentions “faith alone” seems to deny it.
* James 2:24 *You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.*
1. Invisible faith without visible fruit is dead faith.
* James 2:14 *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?*
* James 2:17 *So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
1. At the judgment, our lives will show whether our faith is real.
* James 2:10 *For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.*
* Romans 2:6-8 *6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.*

Q. How do you reconcile Galatians 2:16 and James 2:24?

Q. What is the point of James 2:14 and 17?

Q. How much evidence do we need to show that our faith is real?

3. Faith alone isn’t faith in a ritual.

*Salvation is through faith not through a ritual!*

1. The Catholic Church teaches that sin is forgiven by baptism.
* Catholic Catechism #1263: By Baptism all sins are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God.
* Catholic Catechism #1277: Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.
1. Baptism is the way people are to express their faith in Jesus.
* Acts 2:37-38 *37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
1. Only faith, not baptism, is essential for salvation.
* Acts 16:30-31 *30 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

Q. How do you know that baptism isn’t required for salvation?

Q. Three thousand people were baptized the day they heard Peter’s message. Why didn’t they wait? Why do we wait today?

Q. What is the significance of your baptism?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 2:5-7.

**Notes:**