

Romans 3:29-31

Faith, Flesh, and the Law

1. 3:27 - Faith Excludes Boasting

- a. If God's righteousness can save sinners (v26), *'where is boasting then?'*
 - i. The circumcision could boast of their God and his law - Rom 2:17, 23, 3:2
- b. Boasting can be found in these twin glories:
 - i. 1) the flesh - who they were / where they came from / identity (deserves)
 - ii. 2) the law - how they lived / what they had / works (earned)
- c. *"by the law of faith"* - Boasting is removed by grace and faith revealed - Eph 2:8-18
- d. Romans 4-8 will remove all boasting replacing flesh with faith, and law with grace

2. 3:29-30 - Faith of Gentiles Also

- a. The first boast of Israel: God - Rom 2:21
 - i. Excluded by 'no flesh' 'all have sinned' 'there is no difference' 'unto all, upon all'
 - ii. No flesh should glory in his presence - 1 Cor 1:26-31
- b. *"God of the Jews"* - 'Our Father', God of Israel, salvation of the Jews Mt 6:9, John 4:22
- c. *"also of the Gentiles? Yes"* - See Rom 15:9-12
- d. *"by ... through"* - The point: circumcision & uncircumcision justified by faith 3:28
 - i. Circumcision had covenants, laws, prophets they came through - Gal 3:23-24
 - ii. Uncircumcise had nothing to come through but faith as Paul declares - Gal 3:2,8
- e. *"circumcision by faith"* - explains how Israel can be justified through broken covenants.
 - i. The man of faith did what was requested of God: sacrifices, priests, prayers, etc.
- f. *"uncircumcision through"* - without promised covenants - Eph 2:12-13
 - i. Uncircumcision would come through faith, too - Acts 10:43-45
 - ii. But now, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails - Gal 6:15, Rom 11:32

3. 3:31 - Faith Establishes the Law

- a. The second boast of Israel: the law - Rom 2:23
 - i. Excluded by 'by the law' 'without law' 'freely by his grace' 'his righteousness'
- b. Israel's faith did not void the law they were to keep - Our faith is without the law.
- c. *"void the law"* - Was God's law wasted, ineffectual, violated? No! God forbid.
- d. How is the law established through faith:
 - i. It performed its function to bring knowledge of sin (grace) - Rom 3:20, 1Tim 1:8
 - ii. The law pointed to Christ and the need for propitiation (faith) - Rom 3:21, 25
 - iii. The law is holy and just - Rom 7:12, Christ did what the law could not - Rom 8:3
 - iv. Christ fulfilled the law by dying for us on the cross - Rom 13:10, 5:8, Matt 5:17
 - v. The law taught judgment, mercy, and faith - Matt 23:23
 - vi. Through the law, we are dead to the law, that we might live unto God - Gal 2:19
 - vii. It is not the law that was excluded, but the boasting, and that by grace - Gal 2:20
 - viii. It prepared those under it for the schoolmaster: Christ - Gal 3:24-25
 - ix. Do ye not hear the law? - Gal 2:21, 3:11, 4:21, 5:4, 6:12-14
 - x. Abe and Dave witness justification without works and in uncircumcision - Rom 4
- e. The law of God fulfills its purpose effectively and is not violated by God's grace & faith.