

## Romans 3:27-31

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of works? No, but on that of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

<sup>29</sup>Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, <sup>30</sup>since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

<sup>31</sup>Do we, then, nullify the Law by this faith? Certainly not! Instead, we uphold the Law.

Berean Study Bible, IBD

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1

### **Faith that works. Romans 3:27-31**

Faith excludes boasting. 27

Faith embraces justification. 28

Faith connects to God. 29

Faith connects to justification. 30

Faith validates the Law. 31

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2

### **Romans 3:27-31**

Framework for salvation. 3:27-28

Justification is never by works. 27 “of works? No”

Justification is ever by faith. 28 “justified by faith”

Faith for salvation. 3:29-30

Justification is by God. 30a “God, who will justify”

Justification is by faith. 30b “justify... by faith”

Foundation for salvation. 3:31

The Law prepares for faith. 31a “nullify the law? Certainly not!”

Faith confirms the Law. 31b “we uphold the law”

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3

### **Give and take. Romans 3:27-31**

Give to get. 3:27-28

What to give up. 27 “boasting... works”

What to get in. 28 “faith”

Get to get more. 3:29-30

Who to get. 29 “God”

What to get. 30 “justify”

Get and keep. 3:31

What practices to keep. 31 “faith”

What principles to keep. 31 “Law”

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4

### **One-way street. Romans 3:27-31**

Motor vehicle / Crazy drivers theme, illustrations, video shorts

One-way street. 3:27-28

No pride. 27 “boasting... excluded”

No works. 27 “works? No”

One-way traffic. 3:29-30

One people. 29 “Jews... Gentiles too”

One faith. 30 “faith... same faith”

Obey the rules of the road. 3:31

Live by faith. 31 “faith”

Live by rules. 31 “uphold the law”

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5

### **You’ve got plenty to boast about. Romans 3:27-31**

The benefit of one plan. 3:27-28

Plenty to boast about. 27a “Where, then, is boasting?”

Nothing to boast about. 28 “we maintain that a person is justified by faith”

The benefit of one God. 3:29-30

One Saviour for all. 29 “God of Jews... God of Gentiles too”

One salvation for all. 30 “will justify... through that same faith”

The benefit of one way. 3:31

The blessing of knowing God’s Law. 31 “nullify the Law by this faith? Certainly not!”

The blessing of keeping God’s Law. 31b “we uphold the Law”

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6

### **Upgrading my relationship with God. Romans 3:27-31**

How I relate to God. 3:27-28

I can do nothing. 27 “boasting... excluded... works? No”  
I must choose something. 28 “a person is justified by faith”

How God relates to me. 3:29-30

God only has one people. 29 “Jews... Gentiles too”  
God only has one plan. 30 “justify by faith... same faith”

How God and I connect. 3:31

Keep the Faith. 31a “nullify the Law by this faith? Certainly not!”  
Keep the foundation. 31b “Instead, we uphold the Law”

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### Other possible titles

That sounds like a plan  
The blessing of boasting  
No, you are not special. You are as important as everyone else.  
Yes, you are special. Just as special as everyone else.  
The last of the Law – or is it?  
Inclusive exclusivity (With thanks to J D Gear)

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### Greek lexicon, commentary, cross-references, and quotes

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Inversion parallelism. Romans 3:27-31

- A1 Works and faith. 27
- B1 Justification by faith. 28
- Cx One God for all who have faith. 29-30
- B2 Justification by faith. 30
- A2 Law and faith. 31

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Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. 27a

The noun καύχησις [Strong's 2746] (pronounced kow-khay-sis), and its cognate verb καυχάομαι mean ‘boast’. The root is ‘the neck to hold the head up high’.

Boasting is the outward expression of an inward attitude. Boasting can be either good or bad, depending on the inward attitude.

Boasting can be good.

We should boast in the person and work of our Saviour.

<sup>1</sup>Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we **boast** in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2

<sup>10</sup>Since, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! <sup>11</sup>Not only that, but we also **boast** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:11

<sup>30</sup>It is because of Him [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who **boasts boast** in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:31 (Jeremiah 9:24)

But as for me, may I never **boast**, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

It is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who **boast** in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. Philippians 3:3

We can boast in the outcomes of our suffering.

<sup>3</sup>We also **boast** in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Romans 5:3

He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will **boast** all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

We can boast of our obedience to doing our duty.

<sup>12</sup>We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they show their ignorance. <sup>13</sup>We, however, will not **boast** beyond our limits, but only within the field of influence that God has assigned to us— a field that reaches even to you. <sup>14</sup>We are not overstepping our bounds, as if we had not come to you. Indeed, we were the first to reach you with the gospel of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:13

We should boast of the faithfulness and generosity of believers.

Indeed, I was not embarrassed by anything I had **boasted** to Titus about you. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our **boasting** to Titus has proved to be true as well. 2 Corinthians 7:14

I know your eagerness to help, and I have been **boasting** to the Macedonians that since last year you in Achaia were prepared to give. And your zeal has stirred most of them to do likewise. 2 Corinthians 9:2

We **boast** among God's churches about your perseverance and faith in the face of all the persecution and affliction you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1:4

However, boasting can be bad.

This negative aspect of boasting is still rooted in the words for neck and holding the head up high. This is seen in the term, being 'stiff-necked'. This is pride and arrogance.

We cannot boast of having any part in our salvation.

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

We should not arrogantly boast about our skills or abilities.

Who makes you so superior? What do you have that you did not receive as a gift? And since you did receive it, **why boast** as though it were not a gift? 1 Corinthians 4:7

We should not boast about the supposed superiority of one person over another.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore, stop **boasting** in men.... <sup>22</sup>whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world or life or death or the present or the future. All of them belong to you, <sup>23</sup>and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God. 1 Corinthians 3:21

We should not boast about our plans for the future.

<sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit." <sup>14</sup>You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup>Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your proud intentions. All such **boasting** is evil. James 4:16

Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, <sup>29</sup>

<sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and decrees. He did this to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace <sup>16</sup>and reconciling both of them to God in one body through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Ephesians 2:14-18

Do we, then, nullify the Law by this faith? Certainly not! Instead, we uphold the Law. <sup>31</sup>

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. Matthew 5:17

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? Certainly not! Romans 6:15

The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good. Romans 7:12

<sup>3</sup>For what the Law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin. He thus condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the righteous standard of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4

Christ is the end of the Law, to bring righteousness to everyone who believes.  
Romans 10:4

<sup>21</sup>Is the Law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a Law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the Law. <sup>22</sup>But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe. <sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held in custody under the Law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the Law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.  
Galatians 3:21-25

Now we know that the Law is good, if one uses it legitimately. 1 Timothy 1:8

The Law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the realities themselves.  
Hebrews 10:1a

These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts it belongs to Christ. Colossians 2:17

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## Music and songs

### Songs about **justification**

we maintain that a person is justified by faith, 28a

Depending on Your righteousness

Heaven came down... justified fully thru Calvary's love, CWH 46

One day when Heaven was filled... | <sup>ch</sup>rising He justified freely forever, H 756

Therefore being justified by faith, SiS 29

This Kingdom | <sup>1</sup>Now glorified. Now justified, Ot 47

### Songs about **faith**

we maintain that a person is justified by faith, 28a

At the cross | I'm not ashamed... <sup>ch</sup>It was there by faith I received my sight, H 732

Be bold! Be strong! | I'm walking in faith and victory, SiS 465

Be still, for the presence of the Lord | <sup>3</sup>in faith receive from Him. 527

By faith we see the hand of God (Getty)

Could that faith you've been holding... There's gonna be a better day

Everything that has breath | <sup>1</sup>Portioned by faith, we're destined to win. Ot 49

God is good all the time | <sup>br</sup>And through the eyes of faith (Don Moen)

God on the mountain | <sup>2</sup>That's where your faith is really put to the test, Ot 121

Have faith in God (Bullock)

He's everything to me | <sup>3</sup>Till by faith I met Him face to face, Ot 22

Humble yourself | <sup>3</sup>By putting your faith and trust in the Lord, Ot 127

I walk by faith, Ot 32

Knowing You, Jesus | To possess by faith what I could not earn (Kendrick)

Looking for the city | <sup>1</sup>But with my new eyes of faith (Tunney), Ot 106

My faith has found a resting place, H 669  
O church arise | <sup>1</sup>With shield of faith and belt of truth, Ot 68  
Oh Lord you lead me... Have faith in God (Bullock), Ot 80  
Out on a limb | <sup>1, 2</sup>Put some action in your faith (S W Brown)  
Passin' the faith along to my brother  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ is in you | <sup>1</sup>By faith shall be made possible.  
Speak, O Lord | <sup>1</sup>In our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Ot 55  
Teach me Thy way | <sup>1</sup>More by faith, less by sight, C 262 (536)  
The Church's one foundation | <sup>2</sup>One Lord, one faith, one birth. H 289  
There is a fountain | <sup>5</sup>E'er since by faith I saw the stream, H 694  
Therefore, being justified by faith, SiS 29  
There's an ember, deep within me... Set my faith on fire  
We are His people | <sup>ch</sup>By grace, we are saved through faith, Ot 6  
We who shunned the hand that fed us... Now by faith  
Yield not to temptation | <sup>3</sup>Through faith we will conquer, H 749

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**Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion.**

1. Why is boasting often considered impolite?
  2. What are some differences between good and bad boasting?
  3. Is it ever appropriate to boast about yourself?
  4. Suggest some reasons why Humility and Thanksgiving can lead to Repentance.
  5. How is it possible to “uphold the Law” v31, without obeying the Law (performing sacrifices and other rituals)?
  6. There is only one God, v29, and one Plan: justification by faith, v30, so what should be our relationships a) to other churches, b) to other religions?
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