

**DISCUSSION GUIDE: ROMANS 3:27-31**  
**APRIL 30, 2017**

We finish up chapter three this week with a look at Romans 3:27-31. In this passage, Paul summarizes his argument and reiterates that we all people, whether Jew or Gentile, are made right with God through faith apart from works. As a result, the gospel is the great equalizer—all are guilty, and all come to God the same way. Additionally, while we are not saved by works of the law, this does not mean that the law has no purpose in the life of a believer.

1). In v27, we read that the gospel destroys man's ability to boast in anything he has done to make himself right with God. It is one thing to give lip service to this truth, but it is another to let this truth truly humble us and works itself into all areas of our lives.

—Discuss what Paul is saying to us in v27 about how our boasting is excluded. What does he mean by this?

—Humility should permeate the Christian life. Consider some of obstacles to humility in our culture (social media platforms, etc) and discuss how Christians or churches can cultivate gospel-driven humility.

—What are some traits of a humble life and a humble church culture?

2). In v29-30, Paul says that God is one, and God of both Jew and Gentile. To the first-century nationalistic Jew, this would have sounded like heresy. And yet, the Old Testament is full of references to God's desire for his people (the Jews) to be a light the nations (the Gentiles).

—What implications should this have on how we view people in our own city who are not like us or from another subculture different than ours?

—God has always been on mission for the nations. How should this inform our life and ministry as a local church? (Read Matthew 28:18-20 and the Great Commission).

—What are some things that should mark a church that looks outside of itself to other peoples and cultures—whether locally or globally?

—What part does an individual Christian and member of a church have in this?

3). In v31, Paul issues an important corrective to the potential error of antinomianism. This word means "against the law." Antinomianism misunderstands

the role of God's commands (the law) in the Christian life. While we are saved by faith and grace apart from the law, this does not mean that we can live however we want (i.e, against the law). Rather, the law still has a purpose in the life of a Christian. It does not save, but it does instruct. Even the Old Testament laws that have been fulfilled for us by Christ's perfect obedience are meant to teach us about living holy lives for God.

—Discuss the differences between legalism and lawlessness (antinomianism).

—How should a Christian view the Old Testament? Does it still have any applicability in our lives today?