



Community Group Study: Sola Fide

The Courage to Be Protestant - Part 3 | Romans 3:21-26 | week of August 20

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time when you were young when you were in *real* trouble? How did your parents respond? How did you respond? How did you feel?

Read Romans 3:21-26.

DISCUSS & APPLY

- Paul opens this paragraph by saying, “the righteousness of God has been manifested” (3:21). According to Paul, how do we *get* the righteousness of God?
- According to this paragraph, why do we *need* the righteousness of God?
- How does Paul describe what Jesus did when he died? What do these verses tell us about *why* Jesus died on the cross?
- On the cross, Jesus, God’s Son, died in our place, to take the penalty for our sins. How does this show God to be “just and the justifier” (3:26) of those who place faith in Christ?

- How does verse 26 help us understand and respond to these statements:
 - “Of course God will forgive me. He is a loving, forgiving God who forgives as a parent forgives a child.”

 - “God could never forgive me after what I’ve done.”

- How does believing in justification by faith alone...
 - Humble us?

 - Enable us to be honest about ourselves?

 - Free us from anxiety?

 - Stop us fearing failure or death?

- What kinds of things do you find yourself *adding* to faith in order to be/feel justified? How are you still trying to prove yourself by your works?

NEXT STEPS

- Write a prayer of confession and petition. Ask God to forgive you for all the ways you seek to justify yourself (add works to your faith), and ask him to help you enjoy the full and rich benefits of justification by faith.