

What Is Reformed Theology?
“Faith Alone”

I. Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

A. Central concept of Evangelical Protestantism

1. Luther

B. The problem facing mankind

1. How can a sinner become just before God.

a. Psalm 103:3

2. Justification

a. Forensic

3. Luther’s Latin phrase

a. “Simul justus et peccator”

b. Repudiated by the Roman Catholic Church

C. The Roman Catholic view of justification

1. Complex.

a. Justification begins with baptism

b. Mortal and venial sins

c. Restoration from mortal sins

1. Second plank

d. Works of satisfaction

1. Congruous merit vs. condign merit

D. The 95 Thesis

1. Works of satisfaction

E. The Roman Catholic Church on things necessary for justification.

1. Necessary condition vs. sufficient condition.

F. Roman Catholic Church – faith is necessary for justification.

1. Faith **Alone** (The Missing part and heart of the debate.)

II. Faith Alone

A. “Justification by faith alone” is the same as justification by _____.

1. Alien righteousness.

B. The infusion of Christ’s righteousness.

C. Rome appealed to the Book of James (2:24).

1. Paul in Romans 3:27-28

2. Understanding the differences between the two usages of “Justification.”

a. Paul appeals to Genesis 15

b. James appeals to Genesis 22

3. Justification is by Faith Alone, but not by faith that is alone.

4. The Roman Catholic Church adheres to faith + works.

5. Elements of saving faith.

a.

b.

c.

III. Justification table.

A. Adapted from Sproul, *Grace Unknown*, pg. 78

Justification	
Roman Catholic View	Reformed View
Instrumental cause: Baptism	Instrumental cause: faith
Infused righteousness	Imputed righteousness
Inherent righteousness	Alien righteousness
Grace plus merit	Grace alone
Faith plus works	Faith alone
Christ's righteousness plus ours	Christ's righteousness alone
No assurance of salvation	Assurance of salvation