

Galatians 3:11-12 -- "Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, 'The righteous man shall live by faith.' However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary; 'He who practices them shall live by them.' "

6. Justification is not based on faith

- a. Because the Scriptures represent justification as based on the obedience and blood of Christ

Romans 5:18-19, 21 -- "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men; even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous . . . that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 3:21-25a -- "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."

Romans 5:9 -- "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

- b. Because if justification were based on faith, it would make the finished work of Christ unnecessary, except as an example, an influence, or a demonstration.
- (1) If God justified us on the basis of our faith, then Christ's death could be an example for us to emulate, but not a substitutionary atonement on our behalf.
 - (2) If God justified us on the basis of our faith, then Christ's death could be an expression of God's love to influence us Godward, but not a satisfaction to divine justice on our behalf.
 - (3) If God justified us on the basis of our faith, then Christ's death could be a demonstration of God's holiness and hatred of sin, but not a judgment of God on actual sin; in which case God has yet to deal with actual sin.
- c. Because if justification were based on faith, it would substitute faith for obedience, make the requirements of the Law of no effect, and impugn the justice of God. Justification would then be the declaration of righteousness