

Bedrock Beliefs Discussion Questions **Sola Fide: Faith Alone – Galatians 2:15-21**

Drawn from the November 12, 2023 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: in your own words, how would you define what faith is?

I. Faith...What is it?

1. Based on Hebrews 11:1 which says faith is a “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”, what is something in your life that you presently have hope and assurance for that you cannot see right now?

Our Scripture passage this week talks about being “justified by faith”. Let’s explore this.

“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. Galatians 2:15-16

2. The term “justified” is often translated as “being right with God” and this occurs by “faith in Jesus Christ”. Why is it important to trust in Jesus instead of our own good works?
3. Pastor Jeff mentioned that faith acknowledges we have a problem with sin and we will all one day stand before God and have to give an account. On what basis will you personally “plead your case”?

II. Benefits of Faith alone (Sola fides)

A. Faith Vindicates

Read Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

4. To vindicate means to clear someone of blame or suspicion. Why does faith in Jesus do this for us and result in peace with God?
5. What does faith in Jesus Christ have to do with our own calling to be faithful?

B. Faith brings commendation.

Pastor Jeff talked about Noah and Abraham being counted righteous because they believed God's promises. In fact, everyone mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 was commended (declared righteous) because of God.

6. Who do you most identify with in among the people mentioned in Hebrews 11? Are you one who has seen God's promises fulfilled with your own eyes, or are you still waiting?
7. The writer treats each of these situations as worthy of commendation. Why is that so?

C. Faith offers new life in Christ

Read Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

8. What does it mean that “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”? Can you describe what a life of faith in the Son of God looks like on a typical day? How is it different than an earlier time on your life when you were not focused on Jesus?

9. How has understanding the significance of faith impacted your view of God?

Group Prayer Time: Close your group time in prayer. Pray specifically for group members to apply the reality of God’s love for them to the struggles in their lives. Pray that each person would continue to trust in the vindication, commendation and new life in Christ that faith brings.

For Personal Reflection your own:

- A. How did the realization that Christ loved you and gave Himself for you change your perspective of God?

- B. Is there an area in your life you’d like to have more confidence that God will come through?

- C. How can you help someone in your family better understand how faith in Jesus leads to becoming right with God? What will you tell them?

Next week, November 19, pastor Jeff will cover “Solus Christus (Christ Alone)” and there will be discussion questions available in “Downloads” on the SCC website.