

Questions

1. What are the Five Solas of the Reformation and why are they important to believers today?
2. On the surface, what seems to be the contradiction between Romans 3:28 and James 2:24? What does the word *justified* mean?
3. Two key events from the life of Abraham are central to 2:21-23? What are they and why are they important to James' argument about faith and works?
4. What is the difference between the "works of the law" in Romans 3:28 and the works of James 2:24?
5. What difference has your faith in Jesus Christ made in your life?
6. Why is it significant that James used Rahab as an example right after he had used Abraham as an example?
7. Does your faith in Jesus cost you anything? Are you willing to lose people and things that are precious to you because your faith in Jesus Christ compels you to stand for Him and love Him above all else?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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James 2:24 raises an important theological question (especially when compared to Romans 3:28), and James 2:14 raises an important question of practical theology. Both questions deserve our attention and study.

Theological Question: Is James contradicting the doctrine of justification by faith alone, especially as its articulated in Romans 3?

Romans 3 makes it clear that there are no works anyone could do to be made right before God. We cannot earn our righteousness. Instead, we must be given the righteousness of Jesus Christ – the one perfect and sinless man. And we receive that righteousness by faith alone.

The intersection of doctrine and practice (2:8-10)

Abraham used to illustrate a faith that is active with works
(2:21:23)

Rahab as a final illustration of living faith (2:25)

Abraham was Paul's illustration of justification by faith, AND he
was James' illustration of a living faith that is demonstrated by
obedience.

The conclusion (2:26) – Faith apart from works is dead.

Practical Theology Question (2:14) – What good is it, my
brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
Can that faith save him?

The question framed by an illustration of caring for those in
need (2:15-16)