

Romans 3:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Analysis

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Paul grounds v. 29 in monotheism: *eiper heis ho theos* (εἴπερ εἰς ὁ θεός, "since indeed God is one"). This one God *hos dikaiōsei* (ὅς δικαιώσει, "will justify")—future tense, emphasizing eschatological certainty. He justifies *peritomēn ek pisteōs* (περιτομὴν ἐκ πίστεως, "circumcision by faith") and *akrobystian dia tēs pisteōs* (ἀκροβυστίαν διὰ τῆς πίστεως, "uncircumcision through faith").

The prepositional variation—*ek* (ἐκ, "by/out of") versus *dia* (διά, "through")—likely has no theological significance, simply rhetorical variation. Paul's point: both Jew and Gentile are justified by the same means (faith), by the same God, receiving the same righteousness. Circumcision neither helps Jews nor hinders Gentiles. There is glorious equality at the foot of the cross—all enter the same way, through faith alone.

Historical Context

This was revolutionary: Judaism offered Gentiles salvation through conversion (circumcision, Torah observance). Paul declares: God justifies Gentiles directly by faith without requiring them to become Jewish. This insight birthed Gentile Christianity as a distinct entity from Judaism, though rooted in Israel's Scriptures and Messiah.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How should the truth that God justifies both Jew and Gentile the same way shape ethnic relations in the church?
2. What modern equivalents of "circumcision" do Christians wrongly treat as necessary for justification or full acceptance?
3. How does justification by faith alone create a unity that transcends all human divisions (Galatians 3:28)?

Interlinear Text

ἐπείπερ	εῖς	ό	θεός	ὅς	δικαιώσει	περιτομὴν	ἐκ
Seeing	it is one	G3588	God	which	shall justify	the circumcision	by
G1897	G1520		G2316	G3739	G1344	G4061	G1537

πίστεως	καὶ	ἀκροβυστίαν	διὰ	τῆς	πίστεως
faith	and	uncircumcision	through	G3588	faith
G4102	G2532	G203	G1223		G4102

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 3:8 (Faith): And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Galatians 3:20 (References God): Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

Philippians 3:3 (References God): For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Galatians 5:6 (Faith): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Galatians 6:15 (Parallel theme): For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Galatians 3:28 (Parallel theme): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

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