

I. Answering the apparent contradiction between Romans 3:28 and James 2:24

1. Maybe James is just illustrating an earlier lesson (1:22). A man “says” he has faith... so what?
2. Maybe Paul and James were correcting different issues and used appropriate rhetoric.
3. Maybe two different kinds of faith are in view (assent vs trust).
4. Maybe two different kinds of works are in view (pre-conversion vs post-conversion).
5. Maybe two different kinds of justification are in view (forensic vs demonstrative).

II. Despite the important theological discussion, let us not miss the main point of the passage:

Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification: yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love. [WCF XI.2]

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