

Faith Alone

November 12, 2017

Why celebrate the Reformation?

In the 16th century, Phillip II sent the Duke of Alba to Flanders (Belgium) to stamp out the Protestants who insisted on reading the Scriptures in their own language. Anyone found studying the Bible was hanged, drowned, torn in pieces, or burned alive at the stake. The Church officials had found the Bible while inspecting the house of the Mayor of Brugge. One by one, family members were questioned, but everyone claimed they knew nothing about how the Bible got to their house.

Finally, the officials asked the young maid-servant, Wrunken, who boldly declared, "I am reading it!"

The mayor, knowing the penalty for studying the Bible, tried to defend her saying, “Oh no, she only owns it. She doesn’t ever read from it.”

But Wrunken chose not to be defined by a lie. “This book is mine. I am reading from it, and it is more precious to me than anything!”

She was sentenced to die by suffocation. A place would be hollowed out in the city wall, she would be tied in it, and the opening would be bricked over.

On the day of her execution, as she stood by the wall, an official tried to get her to change her mind, saying, “So young and beautiful – and yet to die.”

Wrunkel replied, “My Savior died for me. I will also die for Him.”

As the bricks were laid higher and higher, she was warned again. “You will suffocate and die in here.”

“I will be with Jesus,” she answered.

Finally, the wall was finished, except for one brick that would cover her face. For the last time, the official tried to persuade her. “Repent – just say the word and you will go free.”

But, Wrunken refused, saying instead, “O Lord, forgive my murderers.”

The brick was put in place. Many years later, her bones were removed from the wall and buried in the cemetery of Brugge.

Why celebrate the Reformation?

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- To help us more thoroughly understand and celebrate what we believe.

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- To help us more thoroughly understand and celebrate what we believe.
- **To better equip us to help others understand what is necessary to truly treasure Jesus.**

What is the Reformation?

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The Reformation is that religious disruption, caused by those who through their own study of Scripture were attempting to reform the Church of the day towards a more biblical perspective. As their efforts to reform were spurned, their beliefs became the foundation of Protestant Christianity.

Key Issues that are still
relevant.

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- **What's our source of truth about God?
(Scripture and Tradition)**

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- What's our source of truth about God?
(Scripture)

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- What's our source of truth about God?
(Scripture)
- **What's the role of clergy?**
(Priests vs Pastors)

Key Issues that are still relevant.

- What's our source of truth about God?
(Scripture and Tradition) (Scripture)
- What's the role of clergy?
(Pastors)

Key Issues that are still relevant.

- What's our source of truth about God?
(Scripture)
- What's the role of clergy?
(Pastors)
- **How are we saved?**
(Faith and Works)

- **SCRIPTURE alone.**

- SCRIPTURE alone.
- **GRACE alone**

- SCRIPTURE alone.
- GRACE alone
- **FAITH alone**

John 3:16

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:21-25a

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God **through faith** in Jesus Christ for **all who believe**. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be **received by faith**.

Saving Faith

Saving Faith

1. Understanding

Saving Faith

1. Understanding
- 2. Endorsing**

Saving Faith

1. Understanding
2. Endorsing
- 3. Treasuring**

Saving Faith

Saving Faith

How does saving faith get expressed?

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Shouldn't treasuring Jesus change the way we think, feel and live?

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How are faith and works related?

Saving Faith

(Faith) Justification and (Works) Sanctification

Saving Faith

Justification (Faith) = Our legal standing before God is changed. We who were at one time guilty before God because of our sins are declared (or made) righteous through faith alone.

Protestant View

Protestant View

Justification

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous

Protestant View

Saving Faith =

Protestant View

Saving Faith = Justification 

Protestant View

Saving Faith = Justification  Sanctification

Protestant View

Saving Faith = Justification  Sanctification

Sanctification (Works) = Gods ongoing work in and with us that makes us more and more like Christ.

Protestant View

Protestant View

Justification



Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous

Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous

Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification

Legal Standing

Ongoing Spiritual

Transformation

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous



Sanctification

O.S.T

Ongoing Process

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous



Sanctification

O.S.T

Ongoing Process

God and Us

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

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Sanctification

O.S.T

Ongoing Process

God and Us

**Being made
Righteous**

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

James 2:14-17

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Protestant View

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous



Sanctification

O.S.T

Ongoing Process

God and Us

Being made Righteous

Roman Catholic

Justification

Legal Standing

One and done

God alone

Declared righteous



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~~**Sanctification**~~

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~~**Sanctification**~~

O.S.T

~~One and done~~

Ongoing Process

~~God alone~~

God and Us

~~Declared righteous~~

Being made Righteous

Bad Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification

Legal Standing

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God alone

God and Us

Declared righteous

Being made Righteous

Bad Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification not necessary

Legal Standing

O.S.T

One and done

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God alone

God and Us

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Bad Protestant View

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Sanctification not necessary

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Bad Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification not necessary

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Bad Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification not necessary

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One and done

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God alone

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Being made Righteous

Bad Protestant View

Justification



Sanctification not necessary

Legal Standing

~~O.S.T~~

One and done

~~Ongoing Process~~

God alone

~~God and Us~~

Declared righteous

~~Being made Righteous~~

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

- Martin Luther

“Faith must of course be sincere. It must be a faith that performs good works through love. If faith lacks love it is not true faith. Thus the Apostle bars the way of hypocrites to the kingdom of Christ on all sides. He declares on the one hand, "In Christ Jesus circumcision availeth nothing," i.e., works avail nothing, but faith alone, and that without any merit whatever, avails before God. On the other hand, the Apostle declares that without fruits faith serves no purpose. To think, "If faith justifies without works, let us work nothing," is to despise the grace of God. **Idle faith is not justifying faith.** In this terse manner Paul presents

the whole life of a Christian. Inwardly it consists in faith towards God, outwardly in love towards our fellow-men.”

Martin Luther Commentary on Galatians 5:6 1535

The Narrow Road



The Narrow Road



Protestantism

The Narrow Road

Protestantism

Justification



Sanctification

The Narrow Road

**Roman
Catholic**

Protestantism

Justification



Sanctification

The Narrow Road

Roman
Catholic

Justification +

Protestantism

Justification



Sanctification

The Narrow Road

Roman
Catholic

Justification +
Sanctification

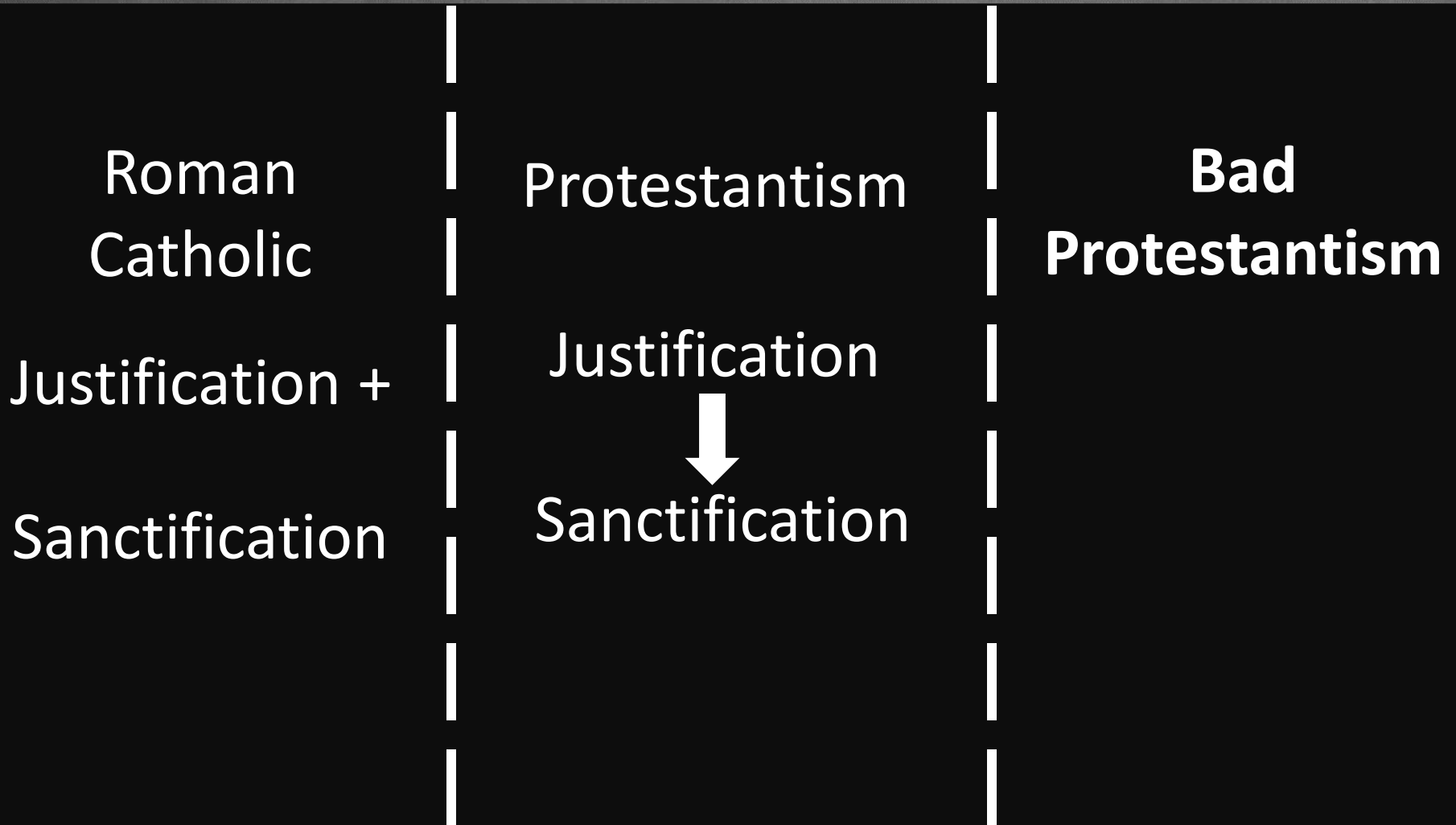
Protestantism

Justification

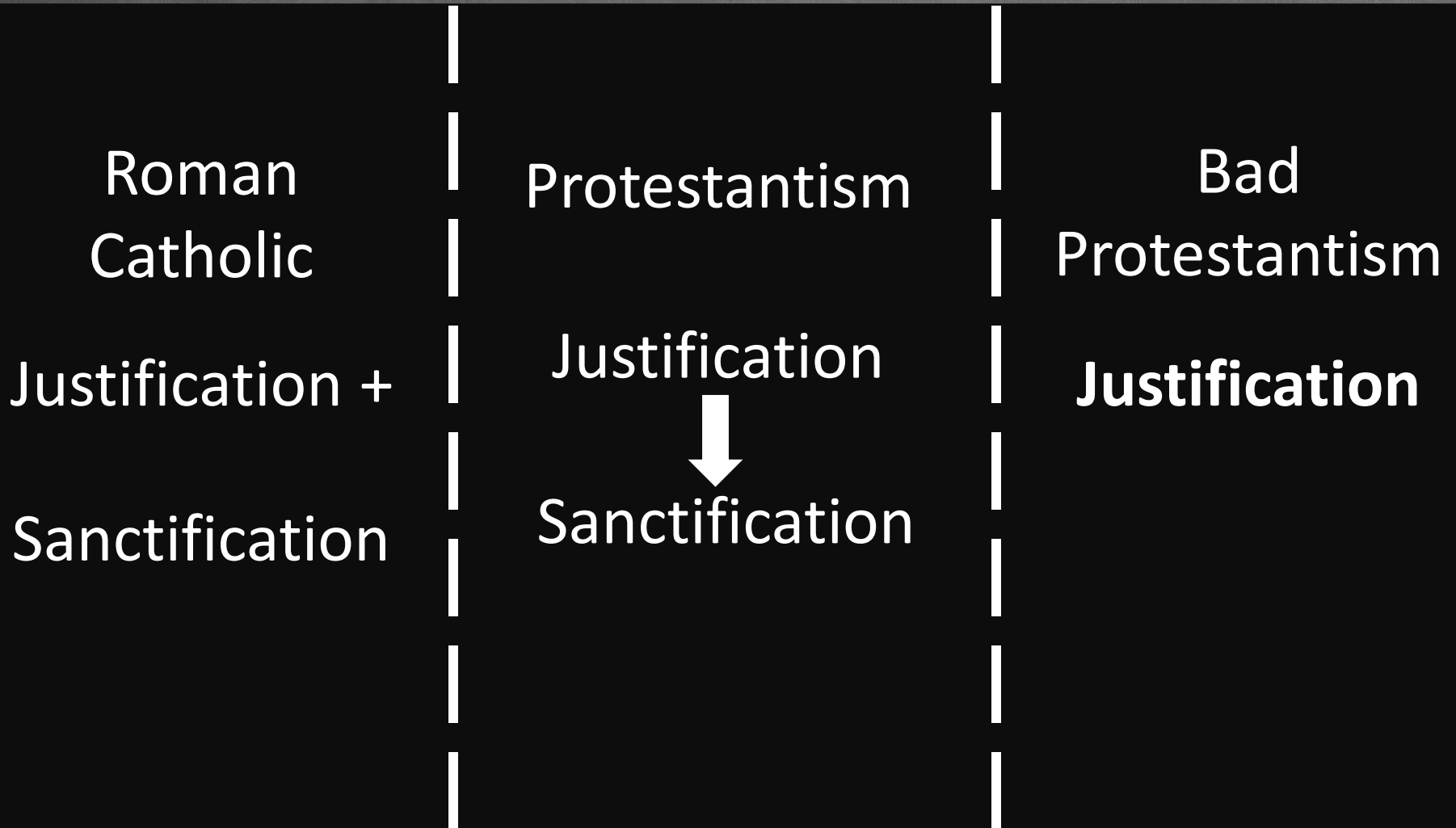


Sanctification

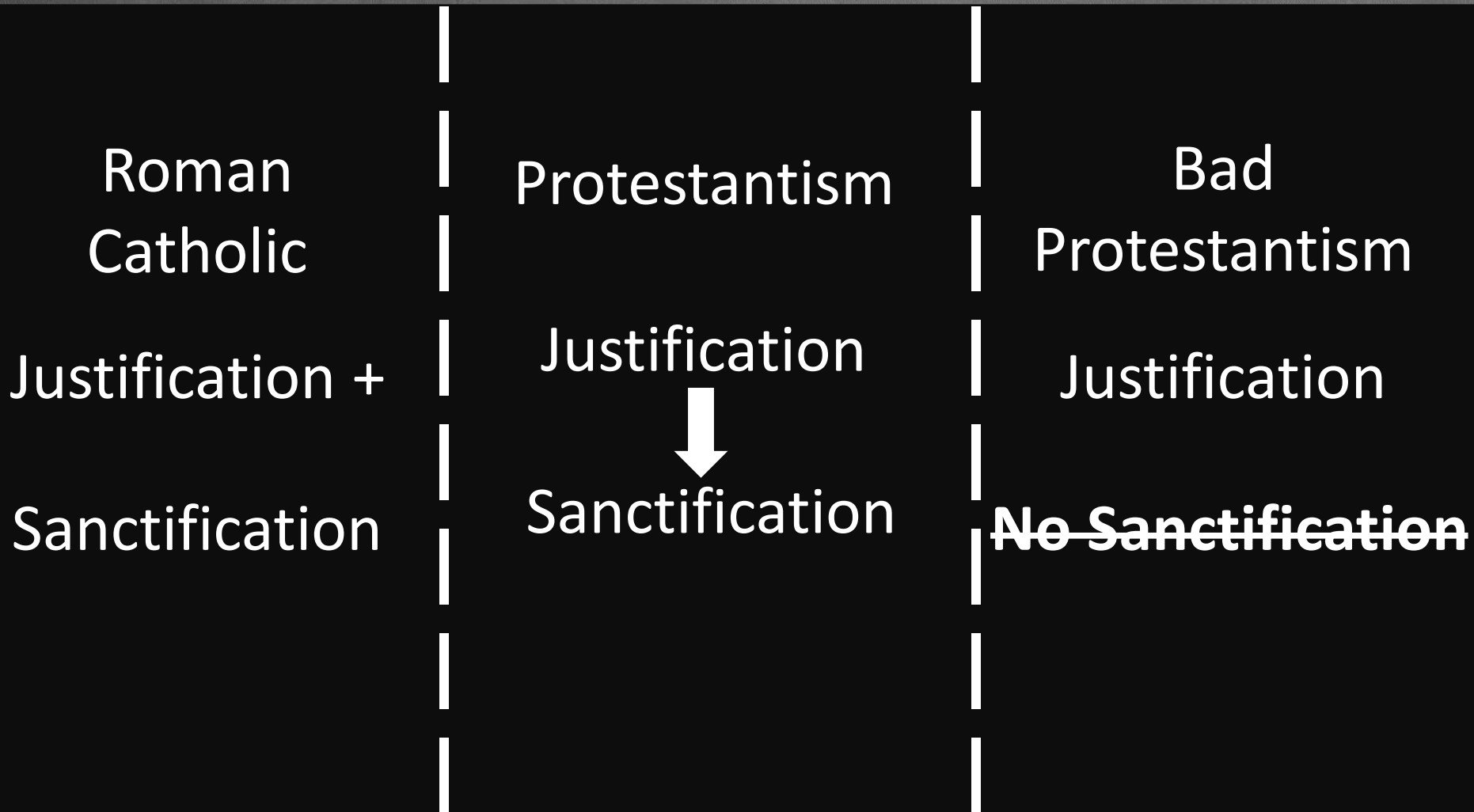
The Narrow Road



The Narrow Road



The Narrow Road



Pre-Reformation

Pre-Reformation

Tradition
+ Scripture

Pre-Reformation

Tradition → Bad
+ Scripture Theology

Pre-Reformation



Pre-Reformation

Tradition + Scripture → Bad Theology → Hopeless Life

Reformation

Pre-Reformation

Tradition + Scripture → Bad Theology → Hopeless Life

Reformation

Scripture

Pre-Reformation



Reformation



Pre-Reformation



Reformation



Early Church

Early Church

Scripture

Early Church

Scripture → Good
Theology

Early Church

Scripture → Good Theology → Hopeful Life

Early Church



Reformation



vision.



ENJOYING GOD TOGETHER

our

guiding focus

doing better

Exegesis

(Scripture)

Exegesis = critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture

vision.



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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

Clearer

Theology

Exegesis = critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture

vision.



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gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

Exegesis = critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture

vision.



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gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

Right now, we don't see many
people promoting this view.

vision.



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Exegesis
(Scripture)



gives you
**Clearer
Theology**



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**Hopeful
Life**



Instead they just focus here.

vision.



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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

We believe it short changes people's experience with God by telling them their theology, instead of helping them discover it for themselves.

vision.



ENJOYING GOD TOGETHER

our

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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

Clearer

Theology



and a strong filter for a

Hopeful

Life

Because **without developing your own theology**, we believe the experience for both **church and life will lack the personal conviction and ownership** needed to have a healthy, growing relationship with God.

vision.



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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

So our venture is to equip people to participate confidently and completely, in all three phases.

vision.



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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

Because if they do, we believe they will experience nothing greater than seeing, and helping others see, true joy is found in seeing Jesus more clearly.

vision.



ENJOYING GOD TOGETHER

our

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Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

Because a
clearer view of
God gives us

our

guiding focus

doing better

Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

**Clearer
Theology**



and a strong filter for a

**Hopeful
Life**

Because a
clearer view of
God gives us

a better
understanding
of the grace we
receive

our

guiding focus

doing better

Exegesis

(Scripture)



gives you

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Theology**



and a strong filter for a

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Life**

Because a
clearer view of
God gives us

a better
understanding
of the grace we
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so we can have
confidence in any
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Life**

Because a
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of the grace we
receive

so we can have
confidence in any
circumstance

and a hope that's
too good to keep
to ourselves

**“Let the man who would hear God Speak,
read Holy Scripture.”**

- Martin Luther