

## Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

### *Article XXII*

#### **Our Justification Through Faith in Jesus Christ**

**Leader:** We believe that, to attain the true knowledge of this great mystery, the Holy Spirit kindles in our hearts an upright faith,<sup>1</sup> which embraces Jesus Christ with all His merits, appropriates Him, and seeks nothing more besides Him.<sup>2</sup> For it must needs follow, either that all things which are requisite to our salvation are not in Jesus Christ, or if all things are in Him, that then those who possess Jesus Christ through faith have complete salvation in Him. Therefore, for any to assert that Christ is not sufficient, but that something more is required besides Him, would be too gross a blasphemy; for hence it would follow that Christ was but half a Savior.

**People:** **Therefore we justly say with Paul, that we *are justified by faith alone, or by faith apart from works.***<sup>3</sup> However, to speak more clearly, we do not mean that faith itself justifies us, for it is only an instrument with which we embrace Christ our righteousness. But Jesus Christ, imputing to us all His merits, and so many holy works which He has done for us and in our stead, is our righteousness. And faith is an instrument that keeps us in communion with Him in all His benefits, which, when they become ours, are more than sufficient to acquit us of our sins.

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<sup>1</sup> John. 3:3-8;

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 2:2; Acts 4:12

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 3:28, 5:1; Gal. 3:16