

1. Acts 15:11 **No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."**
2. Ephesians 2:5 **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.**
 - a. Faith does not originate with any individual. Faith is received from God by grace.
 - b. "We do not think up faith on our own. It does not come from us as an idea of our, but to us as a word from outside." CCC 29-31
3. Romans 3:24 and **are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**
4. Luke 6:43-69
5. **Matthew 7:21-23**
 - a. **Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"**
6. Acts 18:27 On arriving, he was a great help to those who by **grace** had believed.
7. 1 Corinthians 13:2 **"and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."**
8. Galatians 1:15 **But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased.**
9. Ephesians 1:6-7 to the praise of his glorious **grace, which he has freely given** us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's **grace**
10. **1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."**
11. Galatians 5:6 **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**
12. John 6:28-29 NIV Then they asked him, "What must we do to do **the works God requires?**" Jesus answered, "The **work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**"
 - a. Jesus defines and says that faith is a work.
13. **Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."**
14. Romans 4:4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, **but as an obligation.**"
15. Ephesians 2:10
 - a. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good **works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
16. Ephesians 4:11-12

- a. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up
17. Jeremiah 17:10
- a. "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to **what his deeds deserve**."
18. James 2:17-26
- a. "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless ? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
 - b. Satan believes in God without a shadow of a doubt, but he burns in hell eternally not because he doesn't believe that Jesus is the son of God, but because he refuses to obey God and do the will of God.

The following verses prove that one must do good works in order to prove one's faith:

- 19. Revelations 2:2, "I know your **works**, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear evil men but have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not, and found them to be false".
- 20. Revelations 2:5, "Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the **works** you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."
- 21. Revelations 2:19, "I know your **works**, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter **works** exceed the first.
- 22. Revelations 2:23, "And all the churches shall know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and **I will give to each of you as your works deserve**."
- 23. Revelations 3:1-2, "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: `The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your **works**; you have the name of being alive, and you are dead. Awake, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your **works** perfect in the sight of my God."
- 24. Revelations 3:8, "I know your **works**. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut; I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."

25. Revelations 3:15, "I know your **works**: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!"
26. Revelations 9:20, "The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the **works** of their hands."
27. **Sola Fides** *What is sola fides?* *Sola fides* is Latin for "faith alone" and refers to a relatively large number of false doctrines held to a certain degree by a large number of non-Catholic denominations. There is a great degree of variation between these theological positions, and many people who hold to *sola fides* do not actually call it by that name. In brief, *sola fides* is the teaching that mankind is saved by faith alone – simply "believing in Jesus Christ" or "[accepting Him as your personal Lord and Savior](#)" is enough to make one "saved". Very often, it is connected with the doctrine of [eternal assurance](#) (the notion is that once you have displayed the faith in Jesus you are permanently saved) although not always (the understanding of this flavor of eternal assurance is that if your faith in Jesus Christ wavers then you are no longer saved). There are many different variations on *sola fides* – this is because it is a man-made doctrine and *none* of the versions make complete sense! However, an abiding theme which runs through all the versions is the denial of the efficacy of "good works" in acquiring salvation. It is here that the Catholic apologist can most easily address the notion of *sola fides* and dismantle it.
28. *A misunderstanding of Catholic teaching* The rejection of good works as being efficacious for salvation is based on a [misunderstanding of Catholic teaching](#); it is thought by a number of non-Catholics that the Catholic Church teaches that good works somehow *entitle* Catholics a place in Heaven, that we somehow *earn* salvation. This is not the Catholic teaching – salvation is a free-gift which **comes from God via grace without any sense of us meriting it. Faith is an essential part of this, but it is necessary that we do something in order to be saved.** This misunderstanding is often expressed by non-Catholics as the notion that Catholics believe that faith is *irrelevant* and that all that is needed is "good works". **This is not the case, and is an example of the "either / or" belief which many non-Catholics demonstrate.** When engaging in apologetics about this subject it will be necessary to educate the non-Catholic about what Catholic teaching actually *is*.

Logical problems arising from sola fides

29. When taken to its logical extreme, *sola fides* causes a significant number of problems. If the particular flavor of *sola fides* denies *all* "works" as having any beneficial effect, then it completely denies free-will. **The act of showing faith (or even "accepting" faith, if faith is viewed purely as a gift) is a "work" according to the strictest definition of the word. Very few people are completely comfortable with the notion of denying free-will, but this is what is necessary if works are "of no avail".**
30. When considered logically, if there is no free-will, then we are incapable of committing any sin – as we have to consciously *choose* to reject God's commands and the [moral law](#). If there is no sin, then what need do we have for a savior?
31. In a similar vein, if *good* works are of no avail (that is, if there is no action we can take which can lead us towards Heaven and salvation) then why are *bad* works "of avail"? That is, why

does *doing* anything lead to damnation? It seems entirely unfair (and, remember, God is a just god) that we would be judged solely on our *bad* actions and that our *good* actions count for nothing. As above, this seems to suggest that there is no such thing as sin – and if that is the case, what did Jesus come to earth and die for?

32. Of course, the vast majority of non-Catholics have not carried these thoughts through to their logical conclusions, and if presented with them will react by saying that they did not mean *that*. However, that is the logical conclusion of a statement that works are of no avail – and it is important as an apologist to demonstrate the ultimate logical conclusion of a flawed position.
33. *Biblical misinterpretation* Non-Catholics are very fond of quoting from [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) and [Galatians 2:16](#) which state that a man is not saved through works, but by faith. This seems to be a very strong support to the position of *sola fides* on first glance, but this is not the case. It is clear that both of these verses are referring to the same thing – the letter to the Ephesians and the letter to the Galatians deal with many of the same themes as each other. [Ephesians 2:10](#) says that we are created for good works – why would we be created specifically to do such things and yet have these be of no avail? On the face of it, these verses from Ephesians seem to contradict the *many* verses elsewhere which speak of salvation through faith *and* works. It is therefore necessary to interpret these (unclear) verses in light of the (clearer) Galatians verses.
34. When the whole of the second chapter of Galatians is read, it is clear that the works being referred to are the [works of the Law of Moses](#), not “good works” as we understand them. Paul is saying that keeping the Mosaic Law is not a source of righteousness, rather faith in Jesus Christ is a source of righteousness. But what is that faith? What does it *mean*? Saint Paul goes on to explain in [Galatians 5:6](#) that circumcision (by which he means all keeping of the [Mosaic law](#)) is of no avail, but that faith *working through love* is what counts.
35. Jesus Christ makes it very clear that “if you love me, you will keep my commandments” ([John 14:15](#)). To keep a commandment is to *do* something – either to actively avoid committing a sin, or to do a good work of charity. Jesus makes it very clear that salvation (entering the kingdom of Heaven) is open to the person who “does the will of my Father who is in Heaven” ([Matthew 7:21](#)). He says in [Matthew 12:50](#) that whoever does the will of His Father is His family. In these verse, Jesus specifically *denies* salvation by faith alone - “not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven”.
36. *A correct Scriptural understanding of the role of works in salvation*
37. There are many verses which the Catholic apologist should be aware of when seeking to show a non-Catholic that *sola fides* is a false notion and that we are saved through works as well as through faith. Perhaps the most significant and important is [James 2:24-26](#) which clearly states that we are justified “by works and not by faith alone” and that “faith without works is dead”. Saint James is very clear and frank in this, calling those who believe in *sola fides* “ignoramus”! Polite apologists may wish to not quote Saint James verbatim!
38. The connection between salvation, love of Christ and what that requires us to do has been discussed above. In [I Corinthians 13:2](#) we read that faith without love is nothing. [Galatians 5:6](#) has already been mentioned above.
39. Similarly, the passage from John 14:15 has also been discussed – the same sentiment is expressed in [John 14:21](#). But this finds support in all the *other* verses which advocate a keeping of Christ's “commandments”. To keep a commandment requires an *action* of some

sort; a deed or a work. [Matthew 7:21](#), [19:16-17](#), [Romans 2:2-8](#) and [Philippians 2:12-13](#) all make it very clear that some sort of *work* is required.

40. *The final judgment*

41. A number of non-Catholics may argue that while good works are necessary for *showing* that we have faith, we are not *judged* according to them and that they are irrelevant when determining whether we go to Heaven or Hell. The Bible, however, is very clear that this is a false and incorrect notion.
42. [Matthew 25:31-46](#) is the clearest teaching that mankind will be judged according to works done or not done; here we read how Jesus will separate everyone into two groups – those who did the will of His Father and performed *good deeds* and those who did not. This passage even lists a number of good deeds – the corporal works of mercy.
43. In addition, [Romans 2:5-8](#), [II Corinthians 5:10](#), [11:15](#), [Colossians 3:24-25](#) and [I Peter 1:17](#), [Revelation 20:12-13](#) all make it very clear that mankind is judged according to works in addition to faith.

Love is greater than faith. Never forget that. As a matter of fact, you can have the greatest faith in the world but without love, it means nothing. This is from Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:2 “and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” So you see that faith alone is of no value without love. If you have the faith to move mountains, but don’t have love, you will burn in hell for all eternity. 1 Corinthians 13:13 states, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” The greatest of these is LOVE. IT DOESN’T SAY THE GREATEST OF THESE IS FAITH”. These are the greatest Commandments. To love your God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

How do you demonstrate faith? You demonstrate faith by proving your obedience through an act/work OF LOVE. An act or action is a work. Saying you have faith is not proof and is not faith AND IS NOT LOVE. Faith and obedience is only demonstrated through a work OF LOVE. How do you know you have faith? How do I or anyone else know you have faith? How do you demonstrate your faith? You demonstrate your faith through LOVE. Love and love alone.

In regards to Romans, this once again is simple. Throughout Romans Paul talking about the Jewish law. He uses the word law numerous times in Romans. The Jews followed the law and performed the works of the law without any faith AND WITHOUT LOVE. The law only convicted them in sin. No matter how many works they performed works alone and works apart from faith AND APART FROM LOVE will never save because they are simply following the law WITHOUT LOVE IN THEIR HEART. Romans 4:4 states, “Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.” You and I are obliged to perform works to prove and justify our faith AND LOVE. This is simple. Works don’t save and faith without works AND LOVE doesn’t save. Actually, only the grace AND LOVE of God saves. You cannot leverage God. C.S. Lewis talked about this. There is nothing you can do to force God or leverage God into granting you salvation. You can have great faith, but without God’s love and mercy as demonstrated through his forgiveness and grace he still doesn’t have to let you into to heaven and would be justified in sending you to hell; if it was His will. Once again, you can have the greatest faith in the world but without love, it means nothing.

There are no errors in the teaching of the Catholic Church, just errors of people who don’t know how to read and interpret the Bible in the appropriate context. Grace and faith are two different

things. That is basic Christianity. Once again, the Church does not teach that works alone justifies anyone. How did Abraham prove his faith and love? By attempting to sacrifice Isaac. The act of offering up Isaac was just that an act or a work OF LOVE. If the angel had not stopped Abraham, he would have sacrificed Isaac. That is proof of his faith AND LOVE by his actions. An act is a work. This is not Abraham simply saying, "I have faith." In the same way, you saying you have faith is meaningless to God unless your actions justify and prove your faith AND LOVE. Not just saying it, but by being obedient and living your faith by demonstrating your **love** for God and neighbor. This is what the Catholic Church teaches and has always taught. Explain to me why God tested Abraham, if it was not a requirement of God? Good luck on that one. It was required that Abraham prove that he love God more than he loved Isaac.

Love is greater than faith. Never forget that. If you forget that, then you lose everything including your salvation.