

Man I love how Luther emphasized that God doesn't need our good works  
But our neighbor does  
I mean that's so weighty when you think about it because all our good deeds  
Our sanctification, our skill-sets, our responsibilities, and various roles  
Are for the benefit of those around us  
Our families, society, our neighbor, right?  
But what makes us right with God, Paul says, is our faith  
That's how we are made righteous  
And how we remain righteous, in Christ  
But when you blur those lines  
And start looking at your sanctification for assurance  
That you're right with God  
A bunch of problems arise  
First off, we end up filled with discouragement  
From constantly missing the mark  
We can also end up filled with self-doubt  
From constantly applying subjective and arbitrary measures  
To assess our level of sanctification  
In order to determine whether or not we are justified  
Or on the flip side  
We could be filled with self-righteousness  
As a result of fulfilling some criteria we created  
And then in turn  
Cast judgement on others who don't check our specific boxes  
This is a common experience  
Especially among Calvinists  
Because it flows from functionally placing sanctification above justification  
This stems from the fact that, in general, for Calvinists  
There is a primary emphasis on God with obedience to the law

Which perpetuates this inward focus  
Luther on the other hand  
Places the perfect work of God in justification  
Over the incomplete process of sanctification  
We are to look Extra Nos, or outside of ourselves  
Towards the righteousness of faith  
Which is our justification for assurance  
This is where we find identity, stability, objectivity, and security  
Luther is committed to justification truly being Sola Fide  
Meaning by faith alone  
His primary emphasis is on serving your neighbor through your vocation  
This emphasis helps to maintain the clear distinction  
Between our identity being found in our righteousness of faith  
Which we receive from God, aka passive righteousness  
Versus our performance or our active righteousness  
Which is righteousness we live out for the benefit of our neighbor  
As Christians, we should see both kinds of righteousness  
But the different purposes  
We should guard our good works becoming the basis for our righteousness before God  
And we should guard against our righteousness of faith  
Being used to eliminate the need for good works  
Our good works have value here on earth, Coram Mundo  
But it does not justify us before God, Coram Deo  
It is vital that we keep these separate