

FORBIDDEN WORDS UNDER GRACE – Part 3

Things That Often Offend Pauline People But Shouldn't

"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:" – 1 Corinthians 10:32

3. Offenses to the Difference Between the Body of Christ and Israel

Paul borrows Israel's words, not Israel's program. Ask: Who is addressed? Earth or heaven? Prophecy or mystery? Some really are about Israel: Rom 2:17 & 2:28-29 ("a Jew...inwardly"), Gal 6:16 ("the Israel of God"), Rom 11:17-21 ("grafted in")

- a. Circumcision – Phi 3:3, Col 2:11 vs. Gal 5:2, 6:15, 1Cor 7:19
 - i) Circumcision was the "token of the covenant" with Abraham and his seed – Gen 17:10-11, Rom 4:11
 - ii) Israel's hope is a circumcised heart – spoken to "a Jew," not to us – Deu 30:6, Jer 4:4, Rom 2:17 & 2:28-29
 - iii) In Christ "neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision" – Gal 5:6, 6:15, Col 3:11, Eph 2:11
 - iv) Paul counted his own circumcision loss and fought it in the churches – Phi 3:4-8, Gal 5:2-3, Acts 15:1-2
 - v) "We are the circumcision" = worship in the spirit, no confidence in the flesh (vs. "the concision") – Phi 3:2-3
 - vi) Ours is made without hands – God's operation, not ours – Col 2:11-13, Rom 7:21-8:4
- b. Seed/Blessing of Abraham – Gal 3:7, 3:14, 3:29, Rom 4:16 vs. Rom 9:7-8, Gen 17:7-8
 - i) Abraham's seed was promised a land "for an everlasting possession" – Gen 17:7-8, 22:18
 - ii) Not all his seed are children; Israel remains the seed after the flesh – Rom 9:6-8, 11:1, 2Cor 11:22
 - iii) Abraham is "the father of us all" as a pattern of faith w/o works – Rom 4:10-12, 4:16, Gen 15:6, Gal 3:6-9
 - iv) The blessing Paul names is justification, "the promise of the Spirit through faith," not land – Gal 3:8, 3:14
 - v) The seed "is Christ"; in Christ we are Abraham's seed – Gal 3:16, 3:28-29
- c. Fellowcitizens/Fellowheirs – Eph 2:19, Phi 3:20 vs. Eph 2:12, 3:6
 - i) "Fellowcitizens with the saints" read as Gentiles joining "the commonwealth of Israel" – Eph 2:12, 2:19
 - ii) Christ made "of twain one new man" and reconciled both "in one body" – Eph 2:14-16, 2:18
 - iii) The saints = Jew & Gentile members of one body in "the household of God" – Eph 2:19-22, 1Cor 12:13
 - iv) Our citizenship ("conversation") is in heaven, not in Israel's earthly commonwealth – Phi 3:20
 - v) Fellowheirs → Eph 3:6 = mystery definition: 3 things in Christ by the gospel (NIV adds "with Israel") Ro 8:17, Titus 3:7
- d. Temple/Sacrifice/Passover – 1Cor 3:16, 2Cor 6:16, Rom 12:1, 15:16, 1Cor 5:7-8 vs. Exo 19:6, 1Pe 2:5, 2Thes 2:4
 - i) Temple, altar, priesthood & feasts were Israel's worship – Exo 25:8, 19:6, Rom 9:4 ("the service of God")
 - ii) Paul never calls a believer a "priest" – the only altars he mentions are Israel's – Rom 11:3, 1Cor 9:13, 10:18
 - iii) The temple is you, individually and together – 1Cor 3:16-17, 6:19, Eph 2:21-22, 1Tim 3:15
 - iv) Our sacrifices: bodies, gifts, lives poured out – Rom 12:1, Phi 2:17, 4:18, 2Tim 4:6
 - v) 2Cor 6:16 borrows Lev 26:12 to call for separation, not to make us Israel – 2Cor 6:14-18
 - vi) "Christ our passover" – check the context! All scripture instructs righteousness – 1Cor 5:7-8, Col 2:16-17
- e. Espoused/Bride – 2Cor 11:2, Eph 5:32 vs. Isa 54:5, Jer 3:14, Rev 21:9
 - i) "Bride" is never in Paul; Israel is the covenant wife – Isa 54:5, Jer 3:8, 31:32; Hos 2:19-20, Rev 19:7, 21:9-10
 - ii) 2Cor 11:2 is Paul's jealousy for single, pure devotion – "the simplicity that is in Christ" – 2Cor 11:2-3
 - iii) "Married to another" illustrates death to the law, not a wedding – Rom 7:1-4
 - iv) Marriage illustrates the body: "members of his body...a great mystery" – Eph 5:23, 5:28-32
 - v) The body is closer than a bride: "of his flesh, and of his bones" – Eph 5:30, 1Cor 12:27