

GALATIANS

Power of Unity: Abiding in the Church

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

– Galatians 5:6



What about the BIBLE?

- The purpose of revelation is nothing less than the **transformation of human** lives.
- Your contact with the Bible **should be changing you**. If it isn't, then something is drastically wrong with the way you are going about it
- This is a living book with a **living message** which, when it touches human life, begins to transform it and make it over.
- Now, it **takes the entire book** to do the whole job, -- in order that we might see what it has to say and how it says it.

Let's get started...

- Have you ever seen anyone act in a way that did not reflect what they professed or believed?
- What was that like?



Last week...

Paul poses that the gospel of Jesus is that faith in Him is what leads to salvation

Session Goal:

- Established an understanding of how we relate to God and what that means for how we live today.

Journey Through Galatians

Overview March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)

Outline of Galatians

I. Introduction: Gal 1:1-10.

A. Paul greets the Galatians in Gal 1:1-5.

II. Paul's explains his apostleship: Gal 1:11-2:21.

A. Paul outlines the gospel he received from Jesus in Gal 1:11-12.

B. Paul describes the problems between Jewish and Gentile Christians in Gal 1:18-2:21.

III. Paul describes the nature of justification: Gal 3:1-4:31.

A. Paul discusses the purpose of the law in Gal 3:19-25.

B. Paul discusses the old and new covenants in Gal 4:24-31.

IV. Paul exhorts the church to stand firm: Gal 5:1-6:10.

A. The fruit of the Spirit fleshed out in Gal 5:19-23.

B. Paul discusses walking in step with the Spirit in Gal 5:24-26.

C. Paul talks about real community in Gal 6:1-5.

V. Conclusion: Gal 6:11-6:18.

A. Paul expresses confidence in the work of the cross of Jesus in Gal 6:14-17.

Suggested Resources for Leaders

Acts 13-14

Galatians for You by Timothy Keller

The Bible Project: Galatians

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmx4UjRFp0>

This week...Justification.

Session Goal:

- When we are justified, the way we act with people and God changes.

This week...

Acts

- How?

Romans

- What?



Jewish Thinking
Christians, bringing in
Jewish Elements

This week...

- Jewish Thinking Christians...bringing in Jewish Elements
- Law = Competition
- Competition = Quarrels

I. Paul defends his apostleship (Galatians 2:1-10)

- Paul recounts his visit to Jerusalem and his meeting with the apostles.
- He asserts that he received his gospel not from men, but through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- He also describes how the apostles acknowledged the grace that had been given to him and gave him the right hand of fellowship.
- Paul's point here is that his authority as an apostle does not come from human approval, but from his calling by God.

II. Paul confronts Peter's hypocrisy (Galatians 2:11-14)

- Peter had been eating with Gentile believers, but when some Jewish believers came, he withdrew and **separated himself from the Gentiles.**
- This was a **clear violation of the gospel of grace**, which declares that all believers, regardless of ethnicity, are one in Christ.
- **Paul rebukes Peter** for his hypocrisy and reminds him that justification is not by works of the law, but by faith in Christ alone.

The reason for Paul's public rebuke of the apostle Peter.

Galatians 2:11-13 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

- KP: Peter had known that God did not require Gentiles to come under the Law of Moses for salvation. (Acts 10: 10-16)

III. Justification by faith alone (Galatians 2:15-21)

- In the final section of the chapter, Paul emphasizes the central message of the gospel: justification by faith in Christ alone. He states that no one is justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.
- He declares that he has been crucified with Christ and that the life he now lives, he lives by faith in the Son of God who loved him and gave himself for him.
- This is the heart of the gospel: that we are saved by grace through faith, and not by our own efforts.

Paul reminds Peter that they are justified before God by the work of Jesus, not by their keeping of the law.

Galatians 2:15-16

*“We who are **Jews by nature**, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is **not justified** <dikaioo>by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, **even we have believed in Christ Jesus**, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*

Paul answers the main objection against the truth that we are made right before God by faith in Jesus and not by works of the law.

Galatians 2:17-18

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.”

Galatians 2:21 Paul shows why the issue of law-righteousness is so important.

- It was good for **Paul**, because he stayed true and proclaimed the gospel.
- It was good for **Peter**, because he was corrected, and as a result became even more convinced in the truth than before.
- It was good for **Barnabas**, because he came to the correct belief on this matter.
- It was good for the men who came from **James** and started the whole mess, because a line was drawn at the true gospel, and they had to decide.
- It was good for the **Jewish believers in Antioch**, because they had the truth spelled out clearly before them.
- It was good for the **Gentile believers in Antioch**, because their faith and liberty in Jesus was strengthened.
- It was good for us because the **truth still lives today.**

Questions

Antioch

- What is the problem with legalism? What makes it different from the gospel?

Iconium

- What can we learn from Paul's motivation to "be sure [he] was not running [his] race in vain"?

Lystra

- How do you relate to God differently when you stand in a place of justification before Him? Does this change the way you act (even if action does not lead to salvation)?

Derbe

- If God justifies bad people, what is the point of being good? Can't we do as we like and live as we please?

What is the problem with legalism? What makes it different from the gospel?

- Legalism is the belief that we can earn our salvation through good works and **obedience to religious laws or rules**.
- Legalism is different from the gospel in that the **gospel is the message of salvation** by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The gospel also **emphasizes the love of God** and the **unmerited favor** that he has shown us through Christ.

In summary, legalism puts the focus on ourselves and our own efforts, while the gospel puts the focus on Christ and his finished work on the cross. Legalism leads to self-righteousness and judgmentalism, while the gospel leads to humility and gratitude for God's grace and love.

What can we learn from Paul's motivation to "be sure [he] was not running [his] race in vain"?

In Galatians 2:2, Paul expresses his motivation to "be sure [he] was not running [his] race in vain." This can teach us several important lessons:

- The importance of having a clear mission
- The danger of compromise
- The value of accountability
- The importance of trusting in God's sovereignty

How do you relate to God differently when you stand in a place of justification before Him? Does this change the way you act (even if action does not lead to salvation)?

- When a person stands in a place of justification before God, they have been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.
- This new relationship with God **can certainly change the way a person acts**, even though their actions do not lead to salvation.
- In addition, standing in a place of justification before God can also change a person's perspective on life. They can have a **new sense of purpose and meaning** as they seek to live for God's glory.
- However, it is important to remember that our **actions do not lead to our salvation**. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, and our works are the result of our faith.

In summary, standing in a place of justification before God can change the way a person relates to God and the way they act. They are motivated by gratitude and love for Christ, and seek to live a life that is pleasing to God. However, it is important to remember that our actions do not lead to our salvation, which is a gift of God's grace through faith

If God justifies bad people, what is the point of being good? Can't we do as we like and live as we please?

While it is true that God justifies sinners through faith in Jesus Christ, it does not mean that we are free to do as we please or live however we want. Christians believe that God calls us to live a life of holiness and righteousness, and to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

The point of being good is not to earn our salvation or God's favor, but rather to live out the faith that we profess and to honor God with our lives. Our good deeds are a response to God's grace and love, and they are an expression of our gratitude and love for him.

Furthermore, while God's forgiveness is available to all who repent and believe, there are still consequences for our actions, both in this life and in the next. Our choices have real-world impacts on ourselves and on others, and living a life that is characterized by selfishness, cruelty, or other vices can have serious negative consequences.

In short, while God's grace and forgiveness are available to all who seek it, Christians believe that we are called to live a life of love, humility, and obedience to God. Our good deeds are not a means to earn salvation, but rather an expression of our faith and love for God, and a reflection of the transformation that he has worked in our hearts.

In Summary...False Teaching

- Danger of False Teaching
 - Added to Gospel by adding additional responsibilities, spoken word of Jesus
 - People are always trying to add
- Law
 - Consequences for breaking – Restitution
 - Jesus make restitution for every single sin and every single person on earth.
 - Trying to be saved is paying restitution, cannot be done,, we have no to give
- Repentance vs Restitution
 - Repentance is to turn around and go in another direction
 - Change of attitude
 - Repentance requires that I care about sin
 - Repentance is forward looking

Finally, Galatians 2 teaches us that our identity is found in Christ

Conclusion: As we reflect on Galatians 2, let us remember that we are justified by faith in Christ alone. Let us reject any form of legalism or self-righteousness and embrace the liberating message of grace. Let us

This week...Justification.

Session Goal: When we are justified, the way we act with people and God changes.

- being made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ
- transformed, and they are reconciled to God through the forgiveness of sins.
- strive to live a life that is characterized by love, humility, and obedience to God

Journey Through Galatians

Overview March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)