

Galatians 6:3
Summary Review

“For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” (NASB)

“For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” (NKJV)

“εἰ	γὰρ ¹	δοκεῖ	τις	εἶναι	τι	μηδὲν
“if, as is the case,	For, ¹	he thinks	someone	to be	something	nothing
ὄν,	φρεναπατᾶ	ἑαυτόν.”	(NA21)			
being,	he mind-deceives	himself.”	(KMT)			

Expanded Translation:

“For, because,¹ if, as is the case, he really performs the continuous type of action to use thought process to come to a conclusion about a matter someone, being an initiator, to perform the continuous type of action as a matter of purpose to be something, being a tool or instrument used to accomplish something, nothing, being a tool or instrument used to accomplish something, performing the continuous type of action as a matter of principle to exist in the state of being based on his own initiation, he really performs the continuous type of action to think in a manner which entices the mind to believe what is desired rather than what is actual himself, an initiator.”

Principles:

1. Truth in one’s thought process is the hallmark of the believer who has become obedient to God.
2. Believing falsehoods, however enticing, show where the believer is either ignorant of truth or rebellious to truth.
3. For the believer to learn truth two things are required:
 - a. confession of sin: (James 1:21; 1 John 1:9)
 - b. reception of God’s Word (James 1:21)
4. For the believer to develop experiential knowledge of truth he must complete the two prerequisites above and then rely upon what the truth he learns in his daily life.
5. Reliance upon truth occurs by the purposeful application of God’s thought process in the believer’s thought process.
6. As the believer allows the truth of God’s divine thought process to become his, he will develop an accurate understanding of the world around him from a spiritual perspective.
7. Failure to develop an accurate understanding of the world is the result of failing to apply God’s Word, failing to receive God’s Word, or failing to confess sin to God.
8. When the believer considers himself from a perspective other than the truth of God’s divine viewpoint, he mis-prioritizes himself and misunderstands his personal value.
9. This can be on the negative end of ego where he devalues himself below that level of value God has assigned him.
10. This can also be on the positive end of ego where he overvalues himself above that level of value which God has assigned him.
11. As in every other area of truth, believers are to receive the level of value which God has assigned

¹ γὰρ is post-positive here. For translation purposes it should be moved to the beginning of the statement. This has likewise been noted in the expanded translation.

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them as His creation as a part of the body of Christ (cf. Rom 12:3).

12. Nevertheless, both believers and unbelievers will devalue and overvalue themselves in this world.
13. Overvaluing oneself is arrogance.
14. Arrogance is developed by over infatuation with oneself as a result of separating one's identity from the God of the universe.
15. Lucifer is the prime example of over infatuation.
16. Instead of recognizing all that he was as the anointed cherub that covered, Lucifer focused on his beauty and wisdom.
17. He began to believe that he could do a better job than God at sitting on the throne.
18. His view of himself was completely removed from the reality that he only was what he was because God made him that way.
19. This is no different than the clay believing it is greater than the potter who molded it into a beautiful vase.
20. Arrogance deceives the thought process of the individual who initiates its function in his thought process.
21. Consequently, the arrogant believer entices his mind to think about himself in a manner that satisfies the perspective he wants to have about himself.
22. This is completely founded on his own perception of himself or his desired perception for himself.
23. In either case, perception does not equate to reality.
24. Thus, how one perceives himself to be may not in reality be how he is.
25. This is no better seen than in the contrast between a grace-oriented believer and a works-oriented believer.
26. A grace-oriented believer recognizes that all that he is, has, and does is the result of God's grace.
27. A works-oriented believer assumes that all that he is, has, and does is the result of himself.
28. A grace-oriented believer operates in humility.
29. A works-oriented believer operates in arrogance.
30. God's gift of free will to man allows him to choose, and thus initiate, whether he will walk in humility under a grace-oriented thought process or walk in arrogance under a works-oriented thought process.
31. Any believer who arrogantly concludes that he is something initiates the action of being nothing in the plan of God.
32. That is, in order to carry out God's plan, the believer must walk in humility.
33. If the believer is operating in arrogance he has removed himself from being effective and productive in God's plan for his life and in the body of Christ.
34. This arrogant thought process causes him to deceive himself about who he is in the plan of God and the body of Christ.

Conclusion:

Paul identifies to the Judaized Galatian believers that any works-oriented believer (who is focused on the Law) has made himself out to be something other than what he really is. Instead of being somebody because of his works, he has made himself to be nothing. Fulfilling the law of Christ requires walking in humility and accurate thinking, not arrogance and deceptive thinking.