

Galatians: The Faith that Frees Us

Galatians: 2:1-21

THE DISPLAYS OF OUR FAITH.

1. Right behavior with wrong belief = LEGALISM

📖 Galatians 2:1–4 (NIV) “Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ² I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain. ³ Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.”

📖 Galatians 2:5–10 (NIV) “We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you. ⁶ As for those who seemed to be important—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance—those men added nothing to my message. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews. ⁸ For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹ James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰ All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.”

2. Right belief with wrong behavior = HYPOCRISY

📖 Galatians 2:11–12 (NIV) “When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹² Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.”

📖 Galatians 2:13 (NIV) “The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.”

📖 Acts 11:23–24 (NIV) “When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.”

📖 Galatians 2:14 (NIV) “When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

3. Right belief with right behavior = LIFE

📖 Galatians 2:20-21 (NIV) “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

📖 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIV) “...He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”

THE DEPTH OF OUR FAITH.


1. We are accepted before God.


📖 Galatians 2:16 (NIV) “...a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

📖 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

📖 1 Corinthians 6:11 (NIV) “...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

2. We are **alive** to God.

 Galatians 2:20 (NIV) "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

 Romans 6:11–14 (NIV) "...count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace."

Have you ever had to confront someone who was acting contrary to your shared faith? How did you go about it? How did it go? Have you ever heard that "**Justified**" means "**Just as if I'd**" never done it? How does that make you feel? Do you think you are actually living in the freedom of God's forgiveness? Do you believe God whenever He says that you are clean? Jesus chose to die for you; have you chosen to live for Him? What is God asking you to do today?

