



Liberated to Live Free in Christ

a study of Galatians

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Starting where you are

Galatians 2:11-21

- The BIG Idea: Justification
- Being & Believing (2:11-14)
- Justification & Faith (2:15-21)
 - Freedom from sin
 - New Life in Christ

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The BIG Idea: Justification

Definition: δικαιοῶ (dik-ah-yo'-o). To show to be righteous, declare righteous, or approved.

- Legally: to show conformation to a proper standard.
- Theologically: made righteous, cleared **by the Lord** of all sin-related charges.
 - God is the judge.
 - Faith in Jesus as the Christ is the standard.
 - Pardon of sin and eternal life are the outcomes/rewards.

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The BIG Idea: Justification *(cont'd.)*

- Biblical
 - A requirement for humanity to partake in covenant relationship with God, through Jesus Christ.

- Historical
 - A foundational doctrine of the Christian church and an organizing principle for the life of the church (an Article of Faith).

- Contemporary
 - A lens through which believers recognize grace for self and others.

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Being & Believing (2:11-14)

How do believers who make up this diverse faith movement practice the common, everyday matters of life alongside their understanding of their brand of Christian faith?

- Table fellowship
- Dietary restrictions
- Jewish-Gentile relationships

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Being & Believing (2:11-14 cont'd.)

- Peter's problems (2:11-13)
 1. Enjoying table fellowship “privately” but renouncing it “publicly” – i.e., hypocrisy (“wearing the mask”; practicing deceit).
 2. Associating clean vs. unclean food laws with people (Lev. 3:17; 7:26-27; 17:10-14, and Acts 10, esp. v. 28).
 3. Negatively influencing others

Being & Believing (2:11-14 cont'd.)

- Paul's opposition (2:14)
 1. The Gospel is the guide
 2. Public rebuke for a public concern
 3. An appeal for consistent standards

Our public actions are our public testimony. May they align with the grace of the Gospel.

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Either past or present, in what areas of your Christian journey have you struggled to “walk straight?”

How did you course correct to live in accord with your faith?



for freedom from sin (2:15-17)

- The irony of turning back to sin (15)
- Acknowledging a higher calling (16)
- Saved, secured, and...still in sin? (17)
 - Enslaved by “rules” of social engagement.
 - Enslaved by the practice of outdated theology.

for new life in Christ (2:18-21)

- Law-based righteousness accepts the weakness of the Law that required the strength of Christ to make grace available.
- Union with Christ requires separation (*death*) from the things the Law regulates to become alive (*life*) to God's grace.
- The indwelling of Christ does not automate sinlessness, it enables sanctification.
- Life is to be lived **in** the flesh and lived **by** faith.

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justification

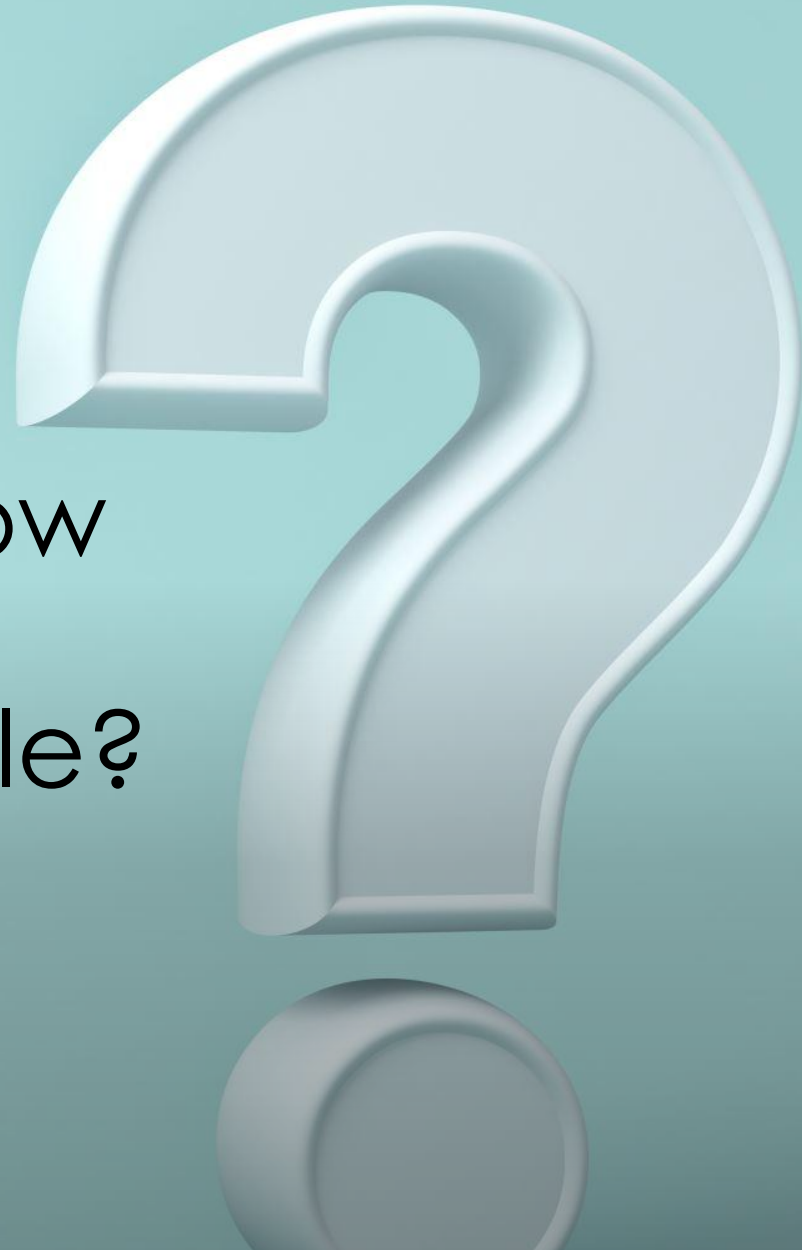
for new life in Christ (2:18-21, cont'd)

- Verse 21
 - Paul's defense against the charge that he was undoing God's grace by insisting on faith in Christ above works of the Law.
 - Paul's declaration that the death of Jesus is the only means by which God's grace for salvation is realized.

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justification

How does the Gospel
inform your efforts to grow
in grace as you live with
and among other people?



Questions

