

GOING ALONG WITH THE CROWD Galatians 2:11-21

How do we identify godly living?

What do we look for?

Robert Mager:

"How do I know one when I see one?"

Galatians started out on road of faith-trusting Jesus.

Now, they want to *live* by a rule book.

Impossible to unite salvation by faith with walking by law.

It's all based on faith

Or it's all based on law

We come to God by trusting Jesus;

So, *continue/WALK* by faith,

NOT list of rules!

Relationship with God/salvation based on work Christ did

Now *WALK* that way.

STOP trying to do it yourself!

Defense of His apostleship & message 1-2

Source & confirmation of message 1:10-2:21

Gospel isn't man's idea 1:10-11

Gospel was God's idea! 1:12

Gospel affirmed by godly leaders 1:13-2:10

WE didn't come up with idea!

It isn't *OUR* plan!

It's **GOD's** idea

Paul's confrontation with Peter 2:11-21

Paul reprimands Peter for principles he's now defending,

Peter's acceptance shows recognition of Paul's authority

=> 2 Pet. 3:15-16 *"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some*

*things that are hard to understand, which ignorant & unstable people distort, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction.”*

“Our dear brother Paul... wrote with the wisdom that God gave him... other Scriptures”

Peter's inconsistent conduct confronted 11-14 *“When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back & separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴When 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?”*

“Actions speak louder than words!”

–Same doctrine/–inconsistent conduct

Peter fell into Judaizers’ trap!

Judaizers: “Godly people hang out with God’s people”

“Holy people” *avoid* pagans

–even converted pagans!

Paul: In Christ, there’s no Jew/Gentile distinction

–no difference between slave & free, male & female.

Peter eats with pagan converts

when no one else is around

11-12a

He says there’s no difference between Jew & Gentile

He eats with them freely & regularly.

By *legalistic Judaizer* standards,

it contaminates him!

Acts 10-11–God shows this law’s no longer in effect.

When Jewish delegation comes to town...

Peter *withdraws* from pagan converts 12b

Afraid of what Jewish party might think!

Afraid Jews won't accept *him*,
if they don't like what they see!

He seeks *people's* approval, rather than God's truth.

Jewish believers influenced by Peter's conduct 13

Paul confronts Peter about what they're doing 14 "*I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel.*"

[=>not orthopedically correct!

–it wasn't straight!]

"You're a Jew yourself"

"You're willing to act like a pagan, instead of a Jew."

"Why do you pressure pagans to act like Jews?"

His *actions* show it is important to be a Jew.

To be equal citizen with equal rights,
you must become a Jew.

His action pressures non-Jews to act like Jews.

**Warning about danger of inconsistent conduct
2:15-21**

Jews are declared righteous by trusting Jesus

We're God's people, not sinful pagans 15 "*We who are Jews by birth & not Gentile sinners.*"

We aren't like "*those sinners!*"

We're born Jews– but we had to learn:

no one is justified by works of law!

We had to come to God by trusting Jesus 16 "*[We] know that 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 & not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

No one is declared righteous by obeying law

Our rules can't save us!

Even OT rules! Even for Jews!

We ALL had to trust Jesus to be declared righteous

If WE aren't bound by law,

why do we bind *them* by it?

Repeats concept 3 X in 1 vs.!

Do we get point?!!!

People are declared righteous by *trusting Jesus!*

NOT by works of law!

Trying to live by rules as basis of righteousness reaffirms our sinful condition 17-19

"If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I prove that I'm a lawbreaker. ¹⁹"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God."

To be justified by Christ,

we leave law's justice behind.

NLT: *"What if we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ & then find out that we're still sinners" Has Christ led us into sin? Of course not! Rather, I make myself guilty if I rebuild the old system I already tore down. For when I tried to keep the law I realized I could never earn God's approval. So I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ."*

People declared righteous by faith are still sinners
Our sin doesn't make *Christ* participant in sin!

But Re-introducing rules demonstrates we're *still lawbreakers*

We become, like pagan gentiles, "lawless" & "sinners"

Because there's no difference *in us!* (Rom. 3:21-23)
 We put ourselves back on same level they're on!

**When we bring law back in,
 we're *still* condemned.**

Christ's work in us becomes confused with sin that's still there.

People see how we act & blame Him!

"No way!" Our sin doesn't make *Him* serve sin!

As long as law's our standard, we break it. 18 *"If I rebuild the old system that I already tore down, I prove myself guilty."*

When we reestablish rules,
 we're back to old problem:

Law condemns

–so ***don't rebuild that standard!***

Law demonstrates I'm a sinner – a law breaker.

Law was given for God's people, *not* for Gentiles.

Justification isn't based on the law, but on faith.

Law *always* does same thing!

Law *always* condemns us!

But we've died to law.

We have different standard.

Christ now lives in me 20-21 *"I have been crucified with Christ & 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 & gave himself for me. ²¹I don't set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

I have been crucified together with Christ 20a

Christ liberated us from law by putting us to death.

"Through law I died to law" => explained in v. 20

Christ died *because of* the law.

I am crucified with Christ, therefore, I'm dead.

Therefore, law has no power over me.

Law can't give orders to dead people!

=> Law can't condemn me.

=> Therefore, now I really live—for God—by faith

I'm no longer living my own life 20b

Christ lives His life in me 20c

He now lives **HIS** life, by **HIS** power, through me.

Therefore, I live by faith in Him 20d

My present life is based on principle of faith.

I've trusted Christ, Who loved me & gave self for me.

Law brings death; Christ brings life.

Conclusion: **21** *"I don't set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

My life is based on God's grace; NOT my works 21

I won't bypass/lay aside/leave out/nullify God's grace.

To seek righteousness *by law* nullifies *God's grace*.

If it were possible to achieve righteousness by keeping law,
Christ wouldn't have had to die.

We could be saved by our own efforts.

Since it isn't possible,

by law we condemn selves.

Christ died for condemned people to demonstrate God's
grace and make possible salvation

Return to law=reject grace=Christ's death becomes useless

I won't do that!

Either it's ALL grace, or it's not grace at all!

When you add law, result is condemnation.

The only way to ***live*** before God, is to ***die*** to law.

Peter didn't consider consequence of inconsistent conduct!

He's only thinking about escaping criticism

He re-establishes the distinction between Jew & Gentile; law's
the base.

HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

3 lessons from encounter between Paul & Peter:

1) Danger of compromise 12

Giving up right due to group pressure (playing to grandstands)

2) Danger of hypocrisy 13 They know what's right.

They preach that God removed the distinction.

To maintain appearance before Jews, they fake a different code

3) Danger of a bad example 13

Peter leads others astray with him.

Even Barnabas, leader in Gentile ministry, follows his example.

2 obligations when dealing with truth:

1) Live in way consistent with what we believe 14a

2) Correct people who don't live acc. to truth 14b

v. 11 Don't criticize in public—

DO correct them!

One essential truth:

***When we add law to any area of our experience,
law only serves to condemn us!***

Result: loss of freedom & loss of enjoyment of life.

***Freedom to enjoy godly living
is produced by faith in Christ!***

How do *WE* fall into Peter's trap?

How do *WE* allow inconsistent conduct & attitudes to creep into *our* life?

We aren't likely to stop hanging out with pagans
when Jewish party comes to town!

That's not *OUR* problem!

How do *WE* act like Peter?

We say we're saved by trusting Christ alone, *plus nothing!*

We say we walk on the basis of faith—NOT law!
Then we get out our list of rules and try to live by them!
Or worse, we get out our list of rules
& try to make other people live by them!
What rules do we use to determine godly conduct?
Do we watch for evidence of a thirst for God?
Or, do we check to see if people...
(You fill in blank;
what do *WE* look for?)
[Social drinking? Length of skirt? Length/color of hair?
... attend same church activities?
... enjoy same kind of music?
... have same standards for our family?]

***When we add law to any area of our experience,
law only serves to condemn us!
Freedom to enjoy godly living
is produced by trusting Christ!***