



Sermon Notes from 9 June

Remaining in Grace (*Galatians 2*)

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Paul responds to the false teachers' accusations of him: that he was seeking the approval of man (Ga. 1:10), that he was a nobody (Ga. 2:6b, 9), and that he was making Jesus a servant of sin (Gal. 2:17) thus nullifying the grace of God (Ga. 2:21a). Even as Christians today, we see how grace can be 'taken for granted' and we wonder if the Law is the solution.

Now That We Are In Grace, Where Do We Go? (3 Directions)

1) Back to Fear (vv11-16)

False teachers had added to the law, making it unlawful (sinful) for Jews to interact with Gentiles (non-Jews). The Apostle Peter (Cephas [Aramaic for 'rock']) stood condemned (v11). He was eating with the Gentiles (v12a) but separated himself out of fear, when the circumcision party (Jewish Christians that abided by the false teacher's laws) came (v12). Cephas was not breaking any law; out of a fear of man, he reverted into becoming a slave of the law. ***Fear is the Essence of Slavery to the Law.***

Ge. 3:10 – Fear-motivated changes are attempts to hide from God. Paul denounces fear as a motivation for change and calls it 'hypocrisy' (v13) – when your life does not align with what is true (v14). Anything, no matter how good, that comes out from fear is never in line with the truth of the gospel. Cephas knew that keeping the law would not make him right with God (vv15-16a); the only way is believing in Jesus (v16a). He turned to Jesus because he knew no one can be made right with God through keeping the law (v16).

Fear is not an option for the Christian.

2) Away to Sin (vv17-19)

v17 - Paul acknowledges that those who pursue Jesus as the only way of getting right with God, might find themselves Gentile-like sinners (v15). No longer living under the Jewish law, they are like Gentiles in their unrestrained sinfulness. While this might seem to make Jesus a servant of sin – such a conclusion is unthinkable for Paul (v17). By preaching the Gospel, Paul had destroyed the power of the Law to separate us from God and one another (v18). *The true lawbreaker is not the one who disobeys the law. The true law breaker is the one who reinstates the law.*

v19 - The law is meant to lead us to die to the law. Only a Holy God can fulfil the holy law. It is in that realization that you are called to faith in Jesus to die to the Law and come alive to God!

Today we tend to be wary at people 'taking advantage' of the grace of God. But in truth, we do not take advantage of God's grace enough.

3) Remain in Grace (vv20-21)

Paul was not preaching a freedom to sin but a freedom to Christ. Christianity is not about a process, but a Person. Grace is Jesus being offered to sinners. Paul saw Jesus' crucifixion on the cross not just as the forgiveness of sin, but also the crucifixion of his own sins (v20a). Life in our weak flesh, is meant to be lived by faith (v20b). Remain in Grace, remain in Christ; the Law is not the answer (v21)!

v20b – Paul enjoyed a personal closeness to his savior Jesus. Jesus' affection for us includes a yearning for every one of us (Php. 1:8). Jesus is calling you to Him because He loves you! Draw near to Him and encounter His love!