

Living in Line with the Gospel

Galatians 2:11-21

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October 31-November 1, 2015

Take-Home Truth: There is only one way to become acceptable to God: “Justification by faith in Jesus Christ.”

Truth #1: The truth of the Gospel is unambiguous: we are justified by faith.

“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’¹⁶ 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 and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified . . .¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. Galatians 2:15-16, 19 (New International Version)

- “justify” = to declare someone not guilty, innocent and righteous in God’s sight

“To ‘justify’ in the Bible means . . . to declare . . . of a man on trial, that he is not liable to any penalty, but is entitled to all the privileges due to those who have kept the law. Justifying is the act of a judge pronouncing the opposite sentence to condemnation—that of acquittal and legal immunity.”

(From God’s Words by J.I. Packer)

- “law” = the sum total of God’s commandments
“observing the law” = acts done in obedience to the law

“. . . seeking to establish their own . . . righteousness.”

Romans 10:3b (English Standard Version)

- “faith in Jesus Christ” = faith which has Christ as its object
- “died to the law” = dying to the law as a way of being saved

Truth #2: We are to live our lives “[in line](#)” with the gospel.

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 and 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?” Galatians 2:11-14 (NIV)

“acting in line with the gospel” = [living out the implications](#) of the gospel in everyday life

“The gospel truth is radically opposed to the assumptions of the world. But since we live in the world, we have embraced many of the world’s assumptions. Christian living is therefore a continual realignment process—one of bringing everything in line with the truth of the gospel.” (From [Galatians for You](#) by Tim Keller)

Peter: “*And God . . . ⁹ . . . made no distinction between us and them, [Jews and Gentiles] cleansing their hearts by faith.* Acts 15:8-9 (New American Standard Bible)

Truth #3: The gospel is life-changing because of our [union with Christ](#).

“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, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰I 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. Galatians 2:17-20 (NIV)

It is because of him [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us . . . our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV)