

The One True Gospel

Galatians 4:21-31

Freedom in Christ

Galatians 4:21-26 – Two Groups of People

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, don't you hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and the other by a free woman. ²³ But the one by the slave was born as a result of the flesh, while the one by the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴ These things are being taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery—this is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Paul asks the question...why would anyone want to be under the law? Basically, it's due to a lack of understanding. Proverbs 14:12 (CSB): *There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.*

Man's wisdom can seem so wise to man. This is why Paul brings them back to Scripture..."for it is written". Wherever we find ourselves, we must always go back to God's Word for wisdom. Paul uses the Scriptures to contrast two different types of people (slave and free). When we rely upon our works, we become slaves. When we rely upon grace, we become free.

We are continuously reminded throughout Scripture that there is a massive conflict between man's ways and God's way. Yet time and time again we attempt to "make our own way". We don't set the terms...God does. We don't decide how God will be worshipped...God does.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that there are only two groups of people (those in Christ and those outside of Christ)?
- ❖ Why must we always turn to God's Word for wisdom and guidance?
- ❖ Why and how are God's ways better than man's?

Galatians 4:27-29 – Unbelievers WILL Persecute Believers

*²⁷ For it is written, **Rejoice, childless woman, unable to give birth. Burst into song and shout, you who are not in labor, for the children of the desolate woman will be many, more numerous than those of the woman who has a husband.** ²⁸ Now you too, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as then the child born as a result of the flesh persecuted the one born as a result of the Spirit, so also now.*

Again, Paul is pointing us back to Scripture (for it is written) to help us understand the reality of our status before the holy God. There will be many who are of the desolate woman...meaning there will be many who are lost and reject the gospel.

Matthew 7:13-14 (CSB): ¹³ *“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. ¹⁴ How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.*

Matthew 7:21-23. Not only will many reject Christ...they will persecute the ones who do accept Christ. This idea that there can be believers and nonbelievers living together in harmony...isn't reality.

John 15:18-19 (CSB): ¹⁸ *“If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.*

2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Since the beginning of human history and until the end of human history there will be conflict between those in Christ and those outside of Christ. And no matter how hard we try the end result will always be the same...the unbelievers WILL persecute the believers. The only way to appease the unbelievers in the world is to compromise the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How should the reality of “many” being lost impact our daily lives?
- ❖ Why should we expect persecution from unbelievers?
- ❖ Why does the enemy want us to compromise the gospel?

Galatians 4:30-31 – Freedom in Christ Separates

³⁰ *But what does the Scripture say? “Drive out the slave and her son, for the son of the slave will never be a coheir with the son of the free woman.” ³¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of a slave but of the free woman.*

Again, Paul is pointing us back to Scripture. Our freedom in Christ will separate us from the world. Which for the most part makes sense to believers. We understand that the world as a whole will have different standards and desires than us. It's easy for us to see pagan worship and label it as unfruitful and false. It's easy for us to look around at the brokenness of our culture and see that it desperately needs Jesus.

The difficulty for the church, even since the founding of the church in the 1st century, is understanding that Christ will even separate us from those that claim “Christianity”. We can see the Satanic church coming from a mile away, but what we have extreme difficulty seeing is the Satanic church that is disguised as a “Christian Church” in our own neighborhoods. And yes, we have those in Franklin County. The Mormons claim to be a Christian church, yet they are a cult. The Oneness Pentecostals claim to be a Christian church, yet they are a cult. Anyone that believes/teaches Christ plus something else...whether it's baptism or sacraments is a cult.

Claiming the title “Christian” does not equal being a true follower of Christ. You cannot manipulate the gospel and be faithful to Christ at the same time.

Titus 1:10-16. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Matthew 18:15-17. Ephesians 5:6-7.

When you take a stand on the one true gospel...there will be push back. Even from those that claim the “Christian” title.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How does the gospel separate people?
- ❖ Are you willing to be separated from family, friends, co-workers, etc. for the gospel?
- ❖ How do you plan on standing firm on the gospel this week?