

The One True Gospel

Galatians 6:11-18

Grace be with You

Galatians 6:11-18 (CSB)

¹¹ Look at what large letters I use as I write to you in my own handwriting. ¹² Those who want to make a good impression in the flesh are the ones who would compel you to be circumcised—but only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even the circumcised don't keep the law themselves, and yet they want you to be circumcised in order to boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For both circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; what matters instead is a new creation. ¹⁶ May peace come to all those who follow this standard, and mercy even to the Israel of God!

Blending into our culture is a massive temptation for believers. We don't want to be the "dork", "odd ball", "religious fanatic", etc. So, there is this struggle.

As believers, it's good to remind ourselves that we HAVE been called to be different. We have been called to stand out. We have been called to go against the world.

1. Is there a clear call from Christ to be different than the world?

John 17:9-29 - Romans 12:1-2

Based on Jesus' prayer and the letter to the church of Rome...we are clearly taught that we are not to be of the world. There should be a clear undeniable difference between those that have confessed Jesus is Lord and those that have denied the one true gospel.

2. Is it really that bad to love some of the ways of the world?

Bluntly, it makes us an enemy of God. James 4:4-10.

We cannot love and embrace the ways of the world and simultaneously be faithful to God. It's as Joshua said to the people of Israel, choose this day whom you will serve. Reality check, you can't love the world and God. It's one or the other. The ways of the world are wicked and God is holy. Any way of the world that contradicts Scripture is evil.

Compromise is the great evil of the church. Why? Think about who is always being asked to abandon their beliefs...

- Defining marriage?
- Gender identity?
- Creation?
- Gospel?

Christianity is always the one required to compromise to fit in...why? Because unbelievers are enemies of God. Therefore, they will ALWAYS want God's Word compromised. There is great harm in embracing the world because the world has made itself an enemy of God.

3. If the world isn't our source of "how to live life"...then what is?

Where do we get our wisdom from? Self? Oprah? TV? Social Media? Friends? Family? Logic? What you base your life off of...is an indication of how much of the world you have embraced. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Following Christ to the point of persecution, makes no sense to the world. God's ways will rarely if ever make sense to the world. Why? Isaiah 55:8-9.

Following the wisdom of God will cause you to separate yourself from the world. It will cause you to look different, act differently, respond differently. Following Christ causes differences to be magnified.

4. How do we conform to Christ rather than the world?

We must die to self. Luke 9:23-26 - Galatians 2:20

It's not if...it's when you will be tempted to embrace the world rather than Christ. You will be tempted to compromise to avoid conflict. We saw Peter deny Jesus three times to avoid conflict.

When you know something is coming...and you don't prepare...that makes you foolish. We must prepare for conflict with the world. In order to prepare, we must purpose in our hearts as Paul did: Philippians 1:21.

As it says in verse 14, we rejoice, boast, celebrate, proclaim all that Christ has done in the gospel. We trust in the wisdom of God (which is found in the Word of God). We must go against the ways of the world. We have no choice. Proverbs 14:12

The ways of man will lead to destruction. We are clearly taught in the Word of God not to conform to the world. Romans 12:1-2

We must not conform but be transformed. And this transformational work, as we have learned from Galatians, is by grace through faith.

Galatians 6:17-18 (CSB)

¹⁷ From now on, let no one cause me trouble, because I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ Brothers and sisters, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

The grace of God is beyond imagination. Throughout the book of Galatians, we are reminded of the grace of God. We are saved by grace and we are sustained by grace. It is only by the grace of God that we can do or accomplish anything for His glory.

Through the grace of God, you are saved, given the fruit of the Spirit, equipped to serve and emboldened to stand against the world. We have mentioned often through this book "The One True Gospel".

The One True Gospel is the story of God's grace towards His people.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.