

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith  
(Galatians 5:1-26) “*What’s the Deal with Sin?*”

~ GOOD MORNING ~

GREAT NEWS...

- Pastor Jeff will be back Wednesday to start Exodus!
  - He would like me to finish teaching through *Galatians*
- Turn to the book of (*Galatians 5:1-26*) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

REMEMBER WITH ME...

- We’ve introduced Galatians as...
  - A letter written to people who had a reputation of being fickle...
    - And who were quickly departing from the faith.

SO FAR WE’VE LEARNED...

- Combating fickle faith focuses on pleasing God & not man
  - In a personal experience of God’s amazing grace.
- We have confidence in the Christian life...
  - Because we relate to God based on my position...
    - Not performance.
- How to define the work of salvation...
  - By faith Jesus & His work on the cross...
    - Belief + Action = Faith

LAST WEEK...

- We discussed how special it is that we get to relate to God as his children
  - How it effects how we relate to others in this life...
    - Not religious or legalistic.

AS WE CONTINUE IN THESE LAST TWO CHAPTERS...

- We begin to answer the question...
  - “*I’m saved... now what?!*”

~ STUDY ~

TODAY...

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- We’re exploring (Chapter 5)...
  - Where we find the *practical application*...
    - Of salvation by faith in Christ.

NOW THAT I’M SAVED BY FAITH...

- How do I deal with the still apparent effects...
  - Of living with sinful desires & failures...
    - In a godless culture of temptation?

PAUL WILL underscore...

- That there is no set of rules or religious guidelines...
  - (An external force of law)...
    - To keep us in God’s will.

RATHER...WE’VE BEEN GIVEN...

- The inner discipline of God (Holy Spirit)
  - Which is far better than any outer discipline of man-made rules!

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
  - “*What’s the Deal with Sin?*”

(Read vv. 1-6)

~LET’S PRAY~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

- For us to walk away with:

~IDEA # 1 – “Perfected In Grace” (vv.1-6) ~

(vv. 1-4)

**#1) NO BENEFIT IN OUR OWN EFFORT**

PAUL IS SUMMARIZING CHAPTER 4...

- Regarding bondage & freedom...
  - And transitioning to chapter 5...

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- Pleading with the church to “*stay free*”

SIMPLY PUT...

- Christ died to set us free...
  - Not to make us slaves to a list of “do’s” & “don’ts”

BUT ONCE WE’RE SAVED...

- We begin thinking adding more religious effort...
  - Will bring about the perfected holiness we long for.
- To become holier in God’s eyes...
  - We institute some **religious rituals** (Circumcision)...
    - Going to church
    - Study my bible
    - Giving to a good cause
    - Serving those in need

IF... IT’S TRUE...

- Grace is receiving something we don’t deserve...
  - And we’re saved & accepted by God’s grace...
    - Not the good things we do

THEN... A RELATIONSHIP FOCUSED ON THESE GOOD THINGS...

- Moves us into a works-based relationship...
  - Instead of a love & position-based relationship...
    - And now we’ve fallen back into religiosity.

WE HAVE TO CONSISTENTLY BE REMINDED OF THIS...

- Because we’re so prone to fall back into religion...
  - In the weakness of our humanity.

BUT... TO DO THIS IS TO **VOID** THE WORK OF CHRIST...

- And to fall away from the grace-based system...
  - He has set up!

(vv. 5-6)

**#2) PERFECTION COMES FROM GOD**

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PAUL TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN...

- Not to perform good things in order to become perfect (righteous)...
  - (Holiness after salvation)

AND HE REMINDS US...

- We don’t become perfect on our own...
  - God will give us our perfect righteousness...
    - At the time of glorification.
      - [\(Romans 8:23\) NLT](#)

*“... We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.”*

BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN...

- We have no part to play as we live on this earth...
  - Living by faith should move us to loving actions...
    - [\(James 2:14-18\) NLT](#)

**THE SIMPLE TAKEAWAY IS...**

- Christians don’t become holy by doing good deeds...
  - We do good deeds because we’re loved by God

IN OTHER WORDS...

- Don’t focus on religious acts...
  - But loving actions!

*(Read vv. 12b-20)*

**~IDEA #2 – “Bound By Love” (vv. 7-15)~**

**(vv. 7-12)**

SINCE WE’RE NOT WORKING FOR PERFECTION...

- The Christian is bound by the love that God has shown...
  - And should produce loving actions by faith.
    - As we walk by faith we grow!

THESE FALSE TEACHERS...

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- Came in and hindered the growth of these new converts...
  - And Paul rebukes their permeating influence.

THEY HAD TIED PEOPLE TO A FALSE GOSPEL...

- And had turned them away from the freedom...
  - God desired them to have.

THE IDEA IS...

- Religious restrictions restrict the love of God...
  - He Intends to show others through us.
    - Ultimately hindering them in the faith.

(v. 13)

HE GOES ON TO EXPLAIN FREEDOM IS FOR A PURPOSE...

- Not to satisfy our sinful desires...
  - But to attract a world estranged from God...
    - (1 Corinthians 9:19) NLT

*“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.”*

(vv. 14-15)

AND HE CONTRASTS...

- The difference between...

- Sacrificial love (v. 14)
  - (Romans 13:10) NLT

*“Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.”*

- Self-focused love (v. 15)
  - “*Biting*” – wound the soul; rend with rebukes & chides
  - “*Devouring*” – To ruin by inflicting injury
  - “*Destroying*” – To use up, to consume

SO WHAT DOES THIS LOVE REQUIRE?

- Turn with me to...

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➤ (1 Corinthians 13:1-7) NLT

**WHAT’S THE POINT:**

SOME WHO LEARN ABOUT “FREEDOM” IN CHRISTIANITY...

- Think it condones living with no restraint.

BUT WE SEE HERE...

- We’re no longer required to follow religious law...
- Only to ask the question: “*What does love require?*”

BUT THIS IS NOT NATURAL...

- If this is truly what God desires...
- How can someone do this...
- And be successful?

(Read vv. 16-26)

**~IDEA #3 – “Led By the Spirit” (vv. 16-26) ~**

(vv. 16-18)

ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN A CHRISTIAN...

- For more than one moment...
- Realizes there’s still a struggle to do what’s right...
- And a desire to do what’s wrong.

WE LEARNED IN (CHAPTER 3)...

- Just because I struggle with sin...
- Doesn’t mean I’m not saved.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY...

- An atheist doesn’t struggle to follow Jesus or with the battle in sin...
- Only someone who is alive to God...
- Can struggle with living for God.

WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND...

- The answer to human struggle with sin...
- Is not laws or threats of being punished...

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- Because laws cannot change a person’s sinful nature.
- It’s not a law on the *outside* but love on the *inside*...
  - That makes the difference
- We need another power within...
  - And that power comes from the Holy Spirit.

(vv. 9-21)

HERE WE LEAN ABOUT THE DISTINCTIVE RESULTS...

- Of following the natural selfish desires...
  - Divided into three categories:

1) Sexual sins:

- a. *Sexual immorality* – any / all sexual acts outside of marriage
  - i. (one man & one woman & one lifetime)
- b. *Impurity* – Morally wrong thoughts, deeds or words
- c. *Lustful pleasures* – offensive / unrestrained sexual desires

2) Superstitious sins:

- a. *Idolatry* – putting “things” ahead of God
  - i. We are to worship God, love people, and use things. But too often we use people, love self, & worship things leaving God out of the picture completely. – Wiersbe
- b. *Sorcery / witchcraft* – The practice of drugging
  - i. intertwined with idolatry
    - 1. Drugs as the source of comfort / healing rather than God.

3) Social sins:

- a. *Hostility* – Hatred; Attitude of mind that defies & challenges others
- b. *Quarreling* – A result of hostility / hatred disagreement
- c. *Jealousy* – Selfish & self-centered envy at someone else’s success
- d. *Outbursts of anger* – Stems from jealousy
- e. *Selfish ambition* – A desire to put oneself forward
  - i. working to get ahead at another’s expense
- f. *Dissension & division* – Result of people fighting
  - i. Over issues & personalities causing division
- g. *Envy* – A wrongful desire to possess what belongs to someone else

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- h. *Drunkenness* – Excessive use of strong drink
- i. *Wild parties (revelries)* – lively / noisy festivals
  - i. Involving drinking large amounts of alcohol.

I THOUGH WE JUST LEARNED...

- Christians aren’t held to a list...
- Of “do’s” & “don’ts”!!
  - (He’s speaking of habitual practices)

THIS HELPS US TO IDENTIFY THE MOMENTS...

- When we’ve slipped back into...
- Following the desires of our flesh...
  - Instead of the leading of The Spirit.
- Maybe this will help...
- (1 John 3:9) NLT

*“Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.”*

(vv. 22-26)

NOW HE GIVES US UNDERSTANDING...

- About the work of The Holy Spirit...
- In the life of a believer.
- “*fruit*” – That which is produced by the inherent energy of a living organism
- Metaphorically: works or deeds being the visible expression...
  - Of power working inwardly & invisibly.
    - The character of the fruit being evidence...
      - Of the character of the power producing it.

THERE’S A COUPLE IMPORTANT TRUTHS...

- We must underscore before we define some of these terms:
  - This fruit IS NOT produced by the believer...
    - But by the power of the Spirit working through a believer...

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- Who yields themselves to His direction.
- People often point to charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit...
  - As evidence of salvation...
    - **In reality**... it's the fruit of the Spirit...
      - That points to evidence of salvation.

HERE ARE 9 QUALITIES & CHARACTERISTICS...

- That come from a Spirit filled Christian's life:

1) Godward aspect of life:

- a. *Agape* – self-sacrificing love
- b. *Joy* – Deep inner rejoicing...
  - i. Not dependent upon circumstances but God's sovereignty
- c. *Peace* – Inner response & quietness even in the face of adversity...
  - i. Defies human understanding

2) Manward aspect of life:

- a. *Patience* – Enduring the provocations & frailties of others...
  - i. Does not retaliate when wrongfully treated
- b. *Kindness* – Quality of being well-meaning
- c. *Goodness* – Reaching out to others to do good...
  - i. Especially when not deserved

3) General conduct of a believer:

- a. *Faithfulness* – Trustworthy & reliable
- b. *Gentleness* – Submissive to God's Word
  - i. (Meekness) Power under control
- c. *Self-Control* – Self mastery
  - i. Curbing the fleshly impulses just described

- How can we produce this fruit in our lives???

➤ (John 15:1-5) NLT

THIS REQUIRES US...

- To die to ourselves (*crucify*)...
  - And allow Christ to live through us.

**WHAT'S THE POINT???**

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- Righteousness is produced in our life...
  - By yielding to the power & control...
    - Of the Holy Spirit.
- We’re not manufacturing anything...
  - We’re just distributing!

~ ***IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM)*** ~

WE’VE COVERED A LOT TODAY...

- But it’s all intended to remove a weight of production off our shoulders...
  - And give us fresh perspective for the battle of sin.
- If we allow ourselves to be perfected in God’s grace...
  - Focus on acts of love...
    - And yield our lives to the Spirit...
      - We can have victory in the battle with sin!