



Paul's Epistle to Galatia

Galatians 2:17-19 - Justification Misunderstood

- Review - *Galatians 2:15-16 – Justification by Faith*
 - Paul is directing Peter to distinguish between *Jews by nature*, and *not sinners from the Gentiles*.
 - To be *justified* is to be made righteous.
 - *faith in Jesus Christ*
 - *believed in Christ Jesus*
 - *justified by faith in Christ*
 - And not by *the works of law (nomos)*
 - Any law system.
- ***Galatians 2:17 - “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!***
 - How should we interpret ‘if’ - is it if (yes or no), 3rd class conditional, or *since* (assumed to be true), 1st class conditional ?
 - It's the only way to be justified; thus, *since!*



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- *we ourselves also are found (aorist passive) sinners*
 - And doesn't the *since* apply equally well here?
 - The Christian Jews, now believers, saw this principle too – being made equal to *sinners from the Gentiles*.
- *is Christ therefore a minister of sin?*
 - From whom or whence did this abominable thought arise?
 - The Judaizers, who indicated that Christ called Jews to abandon the law and therefore they were in sin (Mosaic only or *nomos*?)
 - *Rom 2:14 - for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,*
- *Certainly not ,or God forbid, or may it not happen – we are all sinners saved by grace (not works)!*
 - *Rom 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*



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- How does this theology apply to our Christian walk today?
 - Does the sin nature ever get better?
 - *Rom 7:9-11 - I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.*
 - *Rom 6 :1,2 - What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*
 - *Phil 3:9 - and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*
- ***Galatians 2:18 - “For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.***
 - What is Paul *building again* and what has he *destroyed*?



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- Wuest - '*Build* is from *oikodomeo* which in connection with the law means "to render or declare valid." *Destroy* is from *kataluo* which applied to the law means "to deprive of force, to abrogate." Paul is really referring to Peter's action of declaring the Levitical legislation regarding the eating of food, null and void by his eating with the Gentiles, and then declaring it valid by his act of withdrawing from that fellowship. But he tactfully puts himself into the picture and supposes an hypothetical case.'
- *I make myself a transgressor – parabates* to be compared with *hamartolos*,
 - *parabates* -one who **disregards the ethical spirit of the law**
 - *hamartolos* is one who **disregards the letter of the law.**
- Paul is no longer concerned with the letter of the law, but its ethics – 'moral principles that govern a person's



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- behavior or the conducting of an activity.’
 - Let's compare Peter with Paul here.
 - *Gal 2:11,12 - Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.*
 - McCalley – ‘**Paul is pointing to an inconsistency.** If he abandons the Law as a means of justification and then returns to it in the living of the Christian life, he is inconsistent. However, this is precisely what Peter is doing.’
- Do we exhibit any such inconsistencies in our own Christian lives?
 - Those that relate to the 10 commandments or any law system which we have constructed for ourselves?



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- *Galatians 2:19 - “For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.*
 - *I through the law died to the law - how did we die to the law?*
 - Again, *law* here is *nomos* – **any law system.**
 - Wuest – ‘When Paul says that he has died to a thing he means that **he has ceased to have any relation to it, so that it has no further claim upon or control over him.** It is law as conceived of as a body of legalistic statutes, that he has died to. He uses the personal pronoun *ego*, which indicates that he is speaking of his own personal experience. Thus he finally abandoned it as a means of justification, and accepted salvation in Christ.’
 - *Rom 6:3 - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*



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- And what was the purpose of *nomos*, any law system?
 - Gal 3:24 – *Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*
- *I might live to God - how might we live to God?*
- We now turn to Andrew in Galatians 2:20,21 next week, but until then:
 - Rom 6:4 - *Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
 - Rom 7:4-6 - *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law (nomos) through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.*



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Christ is the culmination of the law
so that there may be righteousness
for everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4



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