

11/08/20 Message

Part of Counterfeit Character

November 7, 2020

Message: Grim Reality

Series: Counterfeit Character

Recap: We're in the 1st message in our ***Counterfeit Character*** series which is taken from the New Testament book of Galatians. Counterfeit (by definition) means made in imitation of something else with intent to deceive. Do you know any counterfeit people? Around 50 A.D. a coup was rising in the first century church. The Judaizers were robbing the church of their freedom through legalism. The false teachers were claiming to be saved, in addition to believing in Jesus, you also must keep the law of Moses (Mosaic Law). Paul wrote to the Galatians (many churches in the region of Galatia) to tell the truth, and combat the lies of "another" gospel.

Legalism

People who worship legalism tend to focus so much on the do's and don'ts, they forget why they're doing (what they're doing) in the first place!

—Pastor Chad

Jesus combated legalism when He was asked...

Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT)

36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Matthew 5:17 (NLT)

Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

John 1:17 (NLT)

For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

Acts 13:39 (NLT)

Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God – something the law of Moses could never do.”

- It's not wise to take one verse of Scripture and claim to know the entirety of what God is saying. You can't understand one verse without knowing what other verses mean, and many times, they build on one another.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

The Galatians started putting the laws of religion before their relationship with Jesus.

- You Can only focus your worship on ONE thing at a time

If you're devoting your effort, your focus, your commitment to following the rules – and thinking about the laws – then you're not focusing on the main thing. And the main thing is Jesus!

—Pastor Chad

- When you focus on Him, everything else falls into place

Then, into the rescue, Paul swoops in... the liberator... his smoking gun was a six chapter defense of grace known to us as "Galatians." In this letter, Paul went to the very fort of legalism and through closely reasoned biblical logic destroyed its errors. His bold defense of grace restored the Galatians and saved the early church from a cultic

division. Because the message of Galatians frees Christians from the oppression of legalism, it has been called the “Magna Carta” of Christianity... This defense of the gospel preserved grace for the Galatians and us.

—Max Anders

Galatians

- Written to all churches in the region of Galatia, churches that Paul helped establish during his missionary journeys
- Written to attack the influence of false teachers, the Judaizers that taught being saved meant you must be in Jesus AND keep the law of Moses

The Galatians Dilemma

Galatians 1:1-10 (NLT)

1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

2 All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia.

3 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

4 Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

5 All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News

7 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

8 Let God’s curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

9 I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

10 Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.

Ancient letters typically had 3 components: who the letter was to, who

the letter was from, and a greeting.

- The letter was from Paul
- The letter is to the churches of Galatia
- The greeting = may God give you grace and peace

The letter actually started in verse 6 – notice the change of tone starting in verse 6. Paul said, “I am shocked!” Notice the deception... “pretends to be” ... counterfeit!

- People aren’t following the right way; they’re following a different way (v6)
- People are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth (v7)

A line is being drawn – one side is the people and the other side is the dilemma... the deception... and it’s counterfeit. The people aren’t bad people, they just believe “another gospel” – they just believe in the imitator. The people are not our enemy... the imitation is our enemy. Yet, it’s so easy to attack and declare war on the other side. We’re no different than the Galatians!

It’s so bad, even people who claim to be followers of Jesus completely lose their testimony when debating politics as if it’s the holy grail... and it’s not! Somehow, we’re fooled into thinking it’s ok to hate our opponent, win at all cost, and divide and conquer. Nothing I just said reconciles within the heart of a believer and follower of Jesus Christ!
—Pastor Chad

We’re confused by a different Gospel!

Our world is so messed up, that different gospel changes shape and direction with the wind. Sometimes it can be politics, but other times it can simply be these fads that come through where we want to be radical and rebel against a cause, any cause... And as long as we’re focused on all the junk on the other side of the line – we lose focus on what really matters, our relationship with Jesus Christ, the witness we are for Him to a lost and dying world, our responsibility to be the light in the

darkness, minister to the hurting, love the unlovable, and lead people from death to life!

—Pastor Chad

There is only one Good News... one Gospel and it's absolutely amazing! Jesus Christ came to earth as a man, took the sin of the world on Himself, died a sinner's death so you wouldn't have to, and three days later rose again defeating death, sin, hell, and the grave!

Through Galatians, Paul is challenging us to get real, get right, and change the world.

—Pastor Chad

In the words of Paul...

Galatians 1:3-5

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave His life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

This is only the beginning... see you next week for more!