




THE SIMPLE GOSPEL



discussion guide

WEEK 3: AM I SAVED BY FAITH OR WORKS?

Read the Text

Galatians 2:11-21

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Main Point

The Simple Gospel is about grace. There is nothing we can say or do to be in right standing before God. Anything we receive from Him is out of His abundant generosity, mercy, and grace towards us. Do we really believe that and live that out though? Or are we like the Galatians where we live as though our works earn us our

righteousness? ***Many of us vacillate on the spectrum of legalism, where we think following the law will earn us righteousness, and licentiousness, where we disregard the law because we presume upon God's grace.*** Wherever we fall, it's because we have a misunderstanding of how we are saved. We lose sight that it is through our faith in Jesus that makes us righteous. And we should neither add rules to that nor presume upon that. ***Whether we lean toward legalism or licentiousness, to help ourselves out of that tendency, we need to deepen our understanding of what it means to be Holy.*** It is Christ who lives in us that makes us Holy.

Reflect Together

- 1. *Who is God?*** Galatians 2:20 reads "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." What does this mean to you? How is this good news for us? How does it reflect who God is?
- 2. *What has He done?*** How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection free you from relying on your own works to earn salvation? How does it make you look at your own sin and how He has saved you?
- 3. *Who are you?*** Where do you fall on the legalism to licentiousness spectrum? How does it impact how you treat and think about your own sin and other people?
- 4. *What are you to do?*** What is a next step you can take to deepen your understanding of holiness? How can that help you let go of your legalism or licentiousness and draw you closer to Jesus?

Abide Together

Pray together about what came up during discussion. Pray that each of you would deepen your understanding of holiness and turn away from legalism and licentiousness.

Mission Together

Having a deeper understanding of holiness and our salvation through Jesus gives us freedom. God doesn't want us to hold this freedom to ourselves though! He wants us to share this news with others. Have you experienced legalism or licentiousness that has negatively impacted your thoughts or interactions with others? How could you invite Jesus in to change your heart and bring restoration to you where you can display grace and truth to that person?