

Galatians - Part 1 THE TREE OF LIFE

Galatians 1:6-7 NIV

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Acts 15:1 NIV

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

They were receiving the free gift of Salvation through Grace.

Key question

How am I going to become Godly?

Genesis 2:8-9 NIV

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Old Testament represents the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - its Knowledge based.

You know what to do now go do it and obey what I say.

The New Testament represents the Tree of Life - you know what to do cause its in you and you have a desire to please God.

Its learned behavior vs transformation

Genesis 3:1-7 NIV

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

He appealed to her desire to want to be Godly

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

The result is always the same - Loss of innocence and shame

Three ways to understand the meaning of the story

1.

– **One focuses on WHAT YOU DO**

Its all about what you do

ex. You don't read your Bible because you love your Bible

Its about how many chapters you read

Or how long you pray

– **One focuses on WHAT JESUS HAS DONE**

Finding JESUS in everything I read

I just want to get closer to HIM

Its not about how much I do!

Its about why I do it!

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Jesus is saying the goal isn't the amount you read

But finding HIM in what you read

Jesus wants you to experience HIM not just know about HIM.

2.

– **One focuses on GETTING GODS APPROVAL**

We have to be careful because the way we view God is how our relationship with God is going to look.

If you have an angry God view you will fall into the mentality of working for his love

But if you have a loving father view of God you will want to do what he says and it will be easy

– **One focuses on RECEIVING GODS LOVE**

He loves me even on my worst day!

Malachi 3:6

I am God and I change not!

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

How you see him will determine how you interact with him.

Romans 5:8 NIV

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God isn't waiting for us to change so he can love you

He Loves you so that you can change

1 John 4:19 NIV

We love because he first loved us.

We need to focus on receiving His free gift of Love instead of getting his love

Receiving — you did nothing for it

Getting — you did something for it

Receivers — freely give

Getters — grudgingly give

3.

— One focuses on EXTERNAL DUTY

If I pray enough

If I read enough

If I give enough

Did I do enough?

Looking at the Bible as a list of rules you HAVE TO FOLLOW

– **One focuses on is OBEDIENCE OUT OF DELIGHT**

If serving God is painful and you are always looking at what you are giving up you are looking at it from the wrong tree.

1 John 5:3; 12 NIV

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Love changes EVERYTHING!

How do I Eat from the right tree?

Freedom Groups

Everyone should go through a freedom group at one point

They are designed to help each one of us live out of the Tree of life. Letting go of our past so that we can fulfill everything God has planned for us.

4 ways to stay in the tree of life

1. Fall in love with JESUS

by focusing on 2 things

Who he is — he is love — He loves you

What he has done for you — he paid my price for my sin. The price of sin will always be paid the choice we have to make is who is going to pay it. Me or Jesus

John 14:15 NET

“If you love me, you will obey my commandments.”

Obedience doesn't come before Love

Love is first and obedience is easy

Obedience to prove love is works

Obedience because of love is life

So let me ask you this which side of the comma are you living on?

2. Serve God through RELATIONSHIP not RULES

This is a continual choice we have to make that the reason we do something is out of relationship not rules.

Or

Out of Love not duty

Temptation is a test of your relationship not just your self-control

3. Respond to all sin with LIFE!

The tree of knowledge - deals with sin through condemnation

The tree of life - deals with sin through conviction

Condemnation - you messed up! You're bad! You're a terrible person!

Conviction - you messed up now here is a way out. I'll walk with you through this.

John 8:9-11NIV

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Jesus extended to her grace and truth

Grace — then neither do I condemn you

Truth — go now and your life of sin

That's how we need to treat ourselves — and — That's how we need to treat others

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

4. Guard your heart from GOING BACK

It is a constant choice you make!

What is going to be my approach to God?

Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!