

Justification by Faith

Part I

Fear vs. Freedom

Galatians 2:11-16

Justification by Faith

Review – Galatians

- Urgent tone
- No Other Gospel
- Paul's Gospel a direct revelation from Jesus himself
 - Not from men
 - Confirmed by Apostles
- Paul is very concerned that the Christians in Galatia are being lead astray by a powerful religious lie (purpose of writing the letter)

Justification by Faith

Galatians 2:11-16

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Justification by Faith

Galatians 2:11-16

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Justification by Faith

Paul Opposes Peter

- “to his face”
- Cultural no-no
- Who is Peter?
 - Simple fisherman called by Jesus to be one of the 12
 - Witness to healings, exorcisms, resurrections, power over nature, transfiguration etc.
 - Sat directly under Jesus’ teaching
 - Walked on water
 - Recognition of Jesus as the Christ

Justification by Faith

Paul Opposes Peter

- Who is Peter?
 - Leader of the 12
 - Denial of Jesus
 - Witness of the risen Christ
 - Pentecost
 - Preaching (3000 become Christians)
 - Leader of the Early Church (“...on this rock I will build my Church”)
 - Peter was fearful of the Judaizers

Justification by Faith

Fear and Religion

- Jesus on Religion/Legalism
 - Blind (close their eyes to the truth)
 - Empty (form without substance)
 - Hypocrites (actors on a stage)

Justification by Faith

Fear and Religion

- Jesus on Religion/Legalism
- Religion/Legalism Tactics

1. Fear

- Bully, Intimidate, push
- Embarrass or humiliate (publicly)
- Condescending, inconsiderate, self-appointed rule-makers who major on the minors
- Threaten punishment (you will pay!)
- Masters at manipulating with guilt and shame

Justification by Faith

Fear and Religion

- Jesus on Religion/Legalism
- Religion/Legalism Tactics
 1. Fear
 2. Hurt Feelings
 - When confronted for hurting others or poor theology, they like to change the subject to their feelings (Luke 11:45)
 - Unrepentant

Justification by Faith

Fear and Religion

- Jesus on Religion/Legalism
- Religion/Legalism Tactics
- Outcomes of Religion/Legalism
 - Pride
 - Despair
 - Judgments based on our own standards, not God's
 - Condemnation... No other gospel! By putting ourselves back under the Law we place ourselves back in the path of condemnation

Justification by Faith

Justification by Faith

- No one is righteous; no one is justified
 - (Rom 3:11-20; Ps 143:2)
- Legal term referring to payment for sin
- Declared righteous before God
- God is the judge, Satan is the accuser, and Jesus takes our place on trial
 - Satan Accuses us “day and night” (Rev 12:10)
 - Jesus intercedes for us as our high priest
 - The great exchange

Justification by Faith

Freedom vs. Fear

- Legalism = slavery and bondage leading to fear, anxiety, despair and condemnation and death
- Faith in Christ = justification (declared righteous) leading to freedom and life
- Watch out!!!
 - Yeast of the Pharisees
 - A Pharisee lurking within all of us
 - Blind to our own legalism – need community!

Justification by Faith

Psalm 19:7-13

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

Justification by Faith

Psalm 19:7-13

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.