



Galatians: Justification

June 14

INTRODUCTION: Having defended the Gospel Paul sets about defining it. Central is justification by faith alone, “the doctrine on which the Church stands or falls.”—Martin Luther. Click here to read a blog, [Justification Simply Put](#).

Our passage has some famous lines in it, but also some confusing ones.

KEY POINT: definition, justification by faith alone

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gal 2:11–14)

- What does it mean to oppose and stand condemned?
- Why did Paul oppose Peter?
- Why was Peter condemned? What sins had he done?
- What was the greatest and the reason Paul opposed Peter?
- Can you share a modern example/case?
- How did this public rebuke defend the authority (and content) of the Gospel to the Galatians?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (FEB Chaplaincy)

- How did Jesus go to the woman at the well?
- How can we see the harvest in our contexts?
- What inspiring and instructive examples of chaplaincy exist within the Fellowship?

READ: Gal 2:1–10

Christianary

- *Justified*- declared or counted just/perfect/righteous by God
- *Works*- something we do, usually savingly
- *Law*- different senses: Bible, Mosaic Covenant, moral law
- *Faith*- belief or trust in God and His promises

QUESTIONS:

1. *V.15-* “we”-Paul is speaking to Peter here still, for the Galatians were Gentiles. At some point the audience returns to that of the Galatians. Peter and Paul, as ethnic Jews, certainly know they

don’t live up to the Law’s demands, how much more a Gentile (this is similar to Ro 1–3:23).

2. **V. 16-** How many times does Paul emphasize this key point? Why do people love to cling to their works to justify? Share examples.
3. **Since it is essential to the Gospel, define justification by faith. What illustrations can you think of to explain this?**
4. **Why is justification a result of trusting in Christ’s work and not our own?**
5. *V. 17-* found to be ‘sinners’ (e.g. charged by traditionalists as not being justified for eating with Gentiles). This would mean Jesus was not alone sufficient.
6. *V. 18-* Rebuild what I tore down... (i.e. Law), and since the law condemns Paul would stand condemned. Those who promote the Law are the ones condemned, not those who are justified by faith. Why can the Law not justify? How can it be used by the Spirit, not as a threat but as a promise in obedience?
7. **V. 19- What liberty is there when our burden is lifted?**
The Law convicted Paul who then trusted in Christ. He has given up trying to justify himself by the Law. The Law then makes no saving demands upon him. Free from such burdens Paul lives in acceptance based on faith in Christ. He has a new relationship with God, one in which he is free to live for God (not living to be free or living freely).
8. **V. 20- After justification, discuss how the Christian lives a holy but non-justifying life.**
Paul’s old self-justifying self came to an end when he repented. Now Christ directs and empowers how he lives (i.e. he lives for Jesus vs. self). How does the crucified live? Paul lives by trusting in the living and life giving Son of God (i.e. His resurrection and Holy Spirit). He trusts in the One who gave himself personally for the believer. Having been loved, we live to love. (He returns to this later).
9. **V. 21- Similar to v. 18. What is Paul’s logic here? Why must justification be of faith in Jesus or nothing at all?**
10. **How can we help people see the truth of Isa 64:6?**

NEXT: June 21- Gal 3:15–29, The Law and the Promise