

Looking for helpful resources?

Bible
Project



Free
Commentary



Read

In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Recall

Sermon Big Idea: Our new identity from the gospel, compels us to live out our new identity by maintaining unity in the gospel.

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. **The "Counter-Insurgency" Strategy:** Paul uses his personal history as a defense against "agitators" in hopes of influencing and persuading to win back the hearts and minds of the Galatians. Why was it so important for the Galatians to know that Paul did **not** receive his gospel from the other Apostles in Jerusalem (1:11–12, 17)?
2. **The Source Material:** Paul spent fifteen days with Peter (Cephas). Given that Peter was an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry, why then does Paul go out of his way to insist his message was independent of Peter's influence (1:18–20)?
3. **The "Gospel-Plus" Test:** In Galatians 2:3–5, Titus becomes a "living litmus test." What was the specific "add-on" the false brothers wanted to require for his salvation? Why did Paul view this seemingly small ritual as a threat to the entire Christian faith?

4. **The Right Hand of Fellowship:** Look at 2:7–9. The Apostles recognized that they had different "target audiences" but the same message. How does this help us distinguish between "customizing the gospel" (bad) and "contextualizing the gospel" (good)?

Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

Goal: To examine how the Gospel reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations.

5. **The Identity Implosion:** Paul was a "rising star" in his career and religion (1:14). When Jesus "knocked him off the ladder," Paul's entire identity shattered. What "ladders" of success or religious performance are you currently trying to climb to prove your worth? How does the Gospel provide a "restful" identity compared to a "performance-based" one?
6. **Sovereign Grace:** Paul says God set him apart *from birth*, long before Paul was "good" or "zealous" (1:15). How does it change your heart to know that God's choice of you wasn't a reaction to your behavior, but a plan made before you could do anything right or wrong?
7. **The Fear of Rejection:** Paul knew what it felt like to be a "liability" (the former Christian-killer, read Acts 9). Have you ever felt like your "old identity" makes you unwelcome in certain Christian circles? How does the Gospel of grace silence the voice of shame from your past?

Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out. How can I take a step of action in the next week to walk more faithfully as a disciple?

8. **Becoming a Barnabas:** Paul needed an advocate to take a risk on him (Acts 9 / Gal 2:1). Who in your life or community is currently viewed as a "liability" or an "outsider"? What would it look like for you to extend the "right hand of fellowship" to them this week?
9. **Identifying Modern "Circumcision":** We may not argue about circumcision today, but we often create "stipulations" for belonging (politics, parenting styles, views on social topics, someone's status, etc.). In what ways are you tempted to "spy on the freedom" of others and impose your own rules on them? How can you intentionally show "gospel acceptance" to someone who disagrees with you on a non-essential issue?