



river west church

Gospel Transformation: Faith, Hope & Love

Galatians 5:1-15

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Justified by Faith – Now What?

Up to this point in the Book of Galatians Paul has been hammering us with the truth of justification by faith alone. He keeps elaborating on this crucial theme in all sorts of ways throughout Galatians. If you truly understand this essential message of the Gospel, you are most likely either delighted or disturbed by it. It's far too radical to get any other reaction. It disturbs many people because it attacks their pride. It says that there is nothing you can do to earn God's acceptance through your own efforts. But for others it brings absolute delight, peace, joy, freedom, confidence and power. It says that Jesus has done it all FOR us. The work is done, accomplished at the Cross. Your acceptance with God is certain. It is a done deal. There is nothing you can do to make God love or accept you any more than He already does. This is His gift to you through Christ! So now you are free. Free from fear, free from shame, free from guilt and free from having to perform. It's amazing.

But what now? If Christ does all of this for us already, what is left for US to do? And why in the world would you bother anyway? If the grace of God is so radical, then it seems to imply that I can go and do anything I want and I will still be OK. But that can't be right!

So, this is where Galatians 5 comes in. This last section of Galatians is about the practical implications of the Gospel in your daily life, your choices and your behavior. This is where we learn that the true message of the Gospel will always lead to the transformation of our lives. That transformation, Gospel transformation, always begins in the heart.

Let's assume that true freedom means you are free to do anything at all that you really want to do. The question is, what is it you really want to do and why? The Gospel doesn't just call us to obey a set of rules (the law did that). The Gospel actually transforms our hearts from the inside out. In other words it changes what we WANT. It changes our motivations and our inclinations. Let's explore the power of Gospel transformation by looking at the following ideas in Galatians 5:

Standing Firm in True Gospel Freedom

Waiting for the Hope of Righteousness

Through the Spirit

Faith Expressing Itself in Love

Love in the Form of Serving Others