

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Grace Changes Everything – Week 3 Galatians 2:1-10

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The Book of Galatians by Kyle Idleman ----- <https://bit.ly/3KE1TCC>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW

Paul's journey to Jerusalem and his defense of the gospel's sufficiency form the heart of this week's passage. Before diving into the text, let's explore our own experiences with acceptance, unity, and the temptation to add "extras" to what God has already provided.

- Share a time when someone's acceptance of you "just as you were" made a significant impact on your life. How did that experience change your perspective on yourself or others?
- What's one tradition or rule from your childhood that you later realized wasn't as important as you once thought? How did you come to that realization, and how did others react when you changed your approach?
- Describe a moment when you felt like you had to "prove yourself" to fit in with a group—at work, school, church, or socially. What was that experience like, and what did you learn about yourself?
- Tell us about a time when you witnessed or experienced true unity despite significant differences (cultural, generational, socioeconomic, etc.). What made that unity possible when it could have easily fallen apart?
- If you had to choose between being accepted by a group that required you to change something fundamental about yourself, or being rejected while staying true to who you are, which would you choose and why?



Paul doesn't compromise when it comes to the gospel's sufficiency. His account of the Jerusalem Council shows us that grace needs nothing added to it—and that true Christian unity comes not from uniformity, but from shared commitment to the gospel alone.

- **Galatians 2:1-2:** Paul waits 14 years before returning to Jerusalem, going "by revelation" to present his gospel privately to the leaders. Why might Paul have chosen this careful, private approach rather than a public confrontation? What does this teach us about wisdom in handling potential conflicts in the church? Supporting Scripture: Matthew 18:15-17, Proverbs 27:5-6. John Chrysostom wrote: "He who is hasty with his lips brings ruin, but he who restrains his lips is wise."
- **Galatians 2:3-5:** The pressure to circumcise Titus represents adding requirements to the simple gospel. Paul refused to yield "even for a moment" to preserve "the truth of the gospel." What modern-day equivalents do we see where people add "extras" to simple faith in Christ (baptism style, worship preferences, political views, lifestyle changes)? How do we recognize when we're doing this ourselves? Supporting Scripture: Acts 15:1-11, Ephesians 2:8-9. Timothy Keller observed: "The gospel is not about what we do for God; it's about what God has done for us."
- **Galatians 2:4:** Paul describes "false brothers" who "slipped in secretly to spy out our freedom." How do legalistic attitudes infiltrate our hearts and churches today? What are the warning signs that we're moving from gospel freedom toward spiritual slavery? Supporting Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Colossians 2:20-23.
- **Galatians 2:6:** The Jerusalem apostles "added nothing" to Paul's message. Paul emphasizes that God "shows no partiality." Why is it significant that the gospel needs nothing added to it? How does understanding God's impartiality change the way we view ourselves and others? Supporting Scripture: Romans 2:11, James 2:1-9, Romans 11:6. Dallas Willard said: "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning."
- **Galatians 2:7-8:** Paul and Peter receive different callings—Paul to the Gentiles, Peter to the Jews—but the same Spirit empowers both. How can the church today embrace different approaches to ministry while maintaining gospel unity? What's the difference between unity and uniformity? Supporting Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 12:4-8.
- **Galatians 2:9-10:** The "right hand of fellowship" symbolizes acceptance and partnership, followed immediately by the request to "remember the poor." How does true gospel freedom lead to both acceptance of others and compassionate action? Why do grace and justice go hand in hand? Supporting Scripture: James 1:27, Micah 6:8, 1 John 3:16-18.



SHOW

- What's one way you can intentionally choose freedom in Christ over performance-based thinking this week?
- Who is someone in your life you can approach for spiritual guidance when facing difficult decisions? Commit to having one meaningful conversation with them about an area where you need wisdom.