



Not a man made gospel

Galatians 1:11-24

Sierra Community Church
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¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. ²¹ Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

[The Holy Bible: New International Version](#) (Galatians 1:11–24)

1. The gospel is given by God, not man

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15-16

And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord.

Judges 2:10-12

“Love is love” is a popular saying that demonstrates the desire to control definitions. Can you think of any other words or ideas that culture wants the authority to define apart from God?

Would you say the Christian community has treated the word of God in a similar way?

One of the reasons why an unloving generation can come to think of themselves as entirely loving is they have assumed control of all the essential definitions. They have seized editorial control of the dictionary, which turns out to have been fairly convenient for them. Love is whatever they say it is.

Douglas Wilson

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

1 John 4:15-17 (NASB)

2. The gospel is found in God’s word and it changes you

Paul goes from being the object that is acting, to being the object that God is acting upon. Christianity isn’t a list of things you do or don’t do, it is who you become when you submit your life to Christ. Are you the type of person who allows God to act on you, and to have the authority to change the way you think, act and live? Or are you constantly trying to get God to change to meet your desires?

“Paul set the response of the Judean Christians in direct contrast to those of the Galatians, who now sought to undermine his teaching on Christian liberty instead of praising God for his transformation. This statement sets in bold relief two reactions that are often present when God is at work—praise and criticism (or opposition).”

Mohrlang, R., Gerald L. Borchert. (2007). *Cornerstone biblical commentary, Vol 14: Romans and Galatians*

Community Group Questions:

1. What is most encouraging to you in this story?
2. What would you say is the hardest part to understand?
3. Where do you find “the gospel” in the Scriptures?
4. How has the gospel changed you?

