



The Motive of Our Obedience Matters

Galatians 5:1-12

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

⁷ You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? ⁸ It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. ⁹ This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! ¹⁰ I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. ¹² I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.

Community Group Questions:

1. What are the three consequences of relying on the law and Christ in verses 2-4?
2. Verse 5 sums up our hope. What does 'eagerly wait (ing)' look like in your life?
3. Verse 6 says: What is important is faith expressing itself in love. What is the cornerstone of beginning a life of faith expressed in love, as my message told it?

What is the gospel?

That now there's no condemnation for you who are in Christ Jesus. Your sins can never separate you from God.

It's not based on your past but Christ's past, not on what you have lived and done, but what Christ has lived and done.

When you hear, "God will love you no matter what you do," wouldn't that make you think, *"I can live any way I want"?*

But Paul says throughout the Book of Galatians

The reason for your obedience is everything.

Let's examine the reason we obey God?

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Paul is saying, "If you obey God for the wrong reasons, it's as bad as if you were disobeying God because *obeying God to earn salvation, is still about you, not God.*"

2 Big Differences For Living By Faith Versus Living By The Law

1. Our approach to personal righteousness is different.

Chuck Swindoll-*When we live according to our own merit, we believe the burden for our holiness rest solely on our shoulders. But when we live by faith, we trust our righteousness is secure in Christ, that the Spirit is working daily to conform us to his image, and that perfect holiness will come only when Christ glorifies us*

2. We live by love, not by 'keeping the code.'

But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. Galatians 5:5,6

The word *eagerly* shows us that there's no uncertainty in us about what God has promised to us. As a Christian, **you never say, God loves me, because of what I've done. He loves me because of what Jesus has done, that is where I'm righteous in God's sight.**

Until you know you're a sinner saved absolutely by grace, you cannot have a faith that express itself in love.