

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Galatians: Jesus + Nothing - Part 2

Tim Piesse

Introduction

In Galatians 2:9 we see Paul's ministry acknowledged and accepted by the pillars of the church, James, Peter and John. While James, Peter and John continued their work among the Jews, they encouraged Paul's work among those not of Jewish background (Gentiles). When Peter began urging Gentiles to practice the Jewish law, Paul stepped in and confronted him. Paul reminds us that our faith and identity is found in Jesus the Son of God alone, not in cultural or religious traditions. Finding our identity in Jesus will enrich the way we experience life, faith, risk, well-being, intimacy, purpose and obedience.

Read

Galatians 2:11-21

Discuss

1. Take time to quietly read the passage again. Have one or two people retell the passage without looking at the Bible. What was Peter's hypocrisy?
2. Read verse 19. Why does condemnation come by trying to keep the law? What is the problem with the law and what makes it different from the gospel?
3. Read verse 20. Pastor Tim teaches us that what Jesus did on the cross shapes and defines who we are. When we consistently identify ourselves with Jesus, it changes the way we experience life, faith and God. Why do we often (albeit subconsciously) fall into the trap of thinking we need to strive for bigger things to identify ourselves with? Share your experience.

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4. "Watch where your strongest thoughts go to." What are some external factors/measurements that we often identify ourselves with? How can we create boundaries for our mind?
5. In order to remain firm in our identity in Jesus, we need to take what Jesus says about us seriously. Together with your group, find as many Bible verses as you can about who we are. Share your initial thoughts after every verse.
6. Being genuine and telling our own story to those we trust is key to keeping our identity in Christ. Why? Where can we find these trustworthy people?

Respond

Keeping our identity in Jesus is more easily said than done. With the flood of information confronting us, we need to be intentional in keeping Jesus at the centre of our identity. What is one practical step you want to take to create a new barrier against the deluge?