

Freedom Found in Christ Alone Galatians 2:15-21

My freedom from sin comes from my faith in Christ Jesus, not my good works.

Galatians 2:15-16

“We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

- **Justification:** to be declared righteous, free of all sins.
- You can never be justified by your “works of the law.”
- You can only be justified by your “faith in Jesus Christ.”

My freedom from sin should be on display as I live a righteous life.

Galatians 2:17-18

“But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.”

My freedom from sin grows as Christ lives in me and I live by faith and His grace.

Galatians 2:19-21

“For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

Digging Deeper:

Paul addresses the important issue of justification in Galatians 2:16. Justification is God declaring that we are now righteous people. This is not achieved by good works but by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul repeats that twice in this one verse to really drive home this point.

LifeGroup Discussion:

When and how did Christ “justify” you by making you righteous? What were the circumstances of your coming to faith in Christ? In what ways has He helped you since that first faith in Christ?

What kinds of “works” do some people use to gain justification? In Paul’s day, the Judaizers were insisting on circumcision and the laws of Moses from the first five books of the Bible. What do some people today use to gain salvation rather than faith in Christ?

What does Titus 3:3-7 teach you about sin, salvation and being justified? Write down your observations and give thanks to Jesus for His work of grace in your life.

Next Steps:

1. **Respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.** Come to the Prayer Points or find any leader at Calvary Church to pray with you about taking a next step toward surrendering to Jesus and living for His Kingdom. Learn more in the booklet “The Way” in the seat racks or visit our website at calvarylife.org/Jesus
2. **Be Baptized:** We will celebrate today with those who are publically expressing their faith, as followers of Jesus, in water baptism. Learn about Beach Baptisms coming up in August at calvarylife.org/baptism
3. **Connect with others to grow in your faith:** Calvary offers many ways for you to grow as a follower of Jesus. Learn about **Mentoring, LifeGroups, Equipping Classes, Care Ministries** and more by filling out *The Card* and dropping it in the offering or by visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today. calvarylife.org/grow
4. **Share the good news of Jesus with a friend.** Start praying that God will give you love, courage, opportunity and the words to say. Invest and invite your friends and family into a relationship with Jesus.