

ONLY ONE GOSPEL – EXPLORING GALATIANS

Talk 4 – Gal 2:11-24 – It's NOT a Gospel of rule keeping!

Small group questions

Leaders – Choose *some* from the following. Don't feel the need to work through each one!

If the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer,
please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

Can you share a time when you felt challenged to stay true to your beliefs or convictions in the face of social pressure or opposition?

Read Galatians 2:11-24.

Peter: you're not helping!

1. Reflecting on Peter's actions in Antioch, why do you think he reverted to living as a Jew despite knowing the truth of the gospel?
2. How can the fear of disapproval or rejection influence our behaviour as Christians today, just as it did for Peter?
3. Share an experience when you felt pressured to compromise your beliefs for social acceptance. How did you handle it, and what did you learn from that experience?

Remember: rule-keeping won't justify anyone:

4. How does Paul's assertion that "a person is not justified by the works of the law" challenge our understanding of salvation and righteousness?
5. Discuss the tension between the desire to earn God's approval through good deeds and the reality that salvation is a free gift of grace. How do you navigate this tension in your own spiritual journey?
6. In what ways can we remind ourselves and each other that our standing before God is not based on our performance but on the finished work of Christ?

Rather: I no longer live, but Christ lives in me:

7. What does it mean to "die to the law" and live for God, as Paul describes in verses 19-20?
8. How does the truth of being crucified with Christ and living by faith in Him impact the way we view ourselves and our identity as Christians?
9. Share a personal example of how understanding Christ's indwelling presence has transformed your perspective on life and faith.

The one who loved me and gave himself for me:

10. Reflect on the profound statement, "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). How does this truth resonate with you personally?
11. How does knowing that Jesus loves us unconditionally and sacrificially affect our daily lives and interactions with others?
12. Discuss practical ways we can live out of the overflow of Christ's love for us in our relationships, communities, and service to others.

Prayer idea: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the freedom and grace found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help us to fully grasp the depth of your love and the reality of our identity in Christ. Empower us to live each day with the confidence that we are loved and accepted by you. May we show to others, the same love which has been shown to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.