

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 5: *The Cut That Counts*

INTRODUCTION – Life, Liberty, & The Law

Matthew 5:17-19 Vs. Ephesians 2:14-15

THE STORY THUS FAR:

1. Jesus came to shut down religion as a system of salvation and identity.
2. God's chosen people are those who follow the path of faith rather than Law, Jew and Gentile together "in Christ".
3. Ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic distinctions are meaningless within the community of Christ.
4. Religion is governed by "elemental principles" – rules, regulations, rituals, and routines that can distract us from the Person of God himself. Religious people are "enslaved" to these *stoicheia*.
5. The Law was a temporary "tutor", dismissed by the coming of Christ.
6. It's time to grow up and get to know God directly as our "Father".
7. This Gospel message is, obviously, worth "fighting" for.

Cracking Open The Text

Galatians 5

APPETIZER: If God himself has shut down the Law, then trying to follow it as a system of salvation or group identity is not just spiritual *slavery*, but spiritual _____. (4:11; 5:2, 4)

James 2:10

THE LAW VS. THE CROSS...



As a source of divine truth we _____ both.
As a source of salvation and/or group identity, we must make a _____.

ENTRÉE: Castration makes a good symbol for the _____ and _____ of religion. (**Leviticus 21:20; 22:24; Deut. 23:1**).

SIDE DISH: The Gospel is _____, though it may appear _____ to traditional conservatives.

DESSERT: If we reject the Law as our primary guidance system, we are not left on our own, but have something better:

- a) the teaching and example of _____,
- b) the guidance and empowerment of the _____,
- c) the support, encouragement, and accountability of the _____ of Christ.

TAKE OUT: Holiness is about not being _____, but about being _____.

CONCLUSION – A Marriage Made In Heaven

John 14:6; 17:3

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Discuss the implications of this quote by J. B. Phillips: *Suppose Christianity is not a religion but a way of life.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Based on what we know from Paul's teaching in the book of **Galatians**, how would he respond to someone who said that people need to follow Jesus and get back to the Ten Commandments in order to get right with God? (Use passages from **Galatians** to support your answer.)
4. Read **Romans 8:1-16**, a passage that is very complimentary to **Galatians 5**. a) What verse stands out the most to you? Why? b) How do **verses 3-4** point out the difference between systematic salvation (i.e., religion) and relationship with God? c) How do **verses 9-10** illustrate the 'christocentric' nature of the Holy Spirit?
5. Time to try something different. Try praying through as much of **Galatians 5** as time permits. Here's how: in turn, read one verse and *briefly* pray about it and how it relates to you and your Home Church. If you can't think of what to pray, just thank God for what he teaches in that verse. Then, move on to the next person and the next verse. (If anyone is uncomfortable praying in a group, just pass their turn.)

SO WHAT?...

6. How are you doing at obeying **Galatians 5:26**? Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 23/30, 2003