

Understanding the Purpose of God's Law

In Galatians 3 and 4, Paul continues to impress upon the new believers in Galatia that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by their works nor by their ability to follow the Mosaic law. Paul explores in depth the contrasting paths of legalism and freedom in faith. As we study Paul's teaching, we discover that God gave us his law to protect and guide us, not to save us. Together, let's hear Paul's loving heart as he urges the Galatians, and consequently, us to stay focused on Christ, to embrace our identity as God's children, and to find our unity as believers in Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you define legalism?
- Would you typically draw connections between legalism and an intimate, loving relationship with God? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Understanding the Purpose of God's Law](#)

READ [Galatians 3-4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- While reflecting on Paul's words in Galatians 3:1-14, host Scott Hoezee said "Thinking that your works and keeping the law gets you saved or keeps you saved, or makes you more saved than those who don't do those things...it is like saying in the end you don't fully actually even need Jesus." When do you think Christians today fall into similar traps of legalism? How does this lead to comparison or a misplaced emphasis on our works or behavior?
- In segment 2, Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss how in Galatians 3:23-4:7, Paul helps us understand the purpose of God's law as a guardian or a babysitter. How does this understanding of God's law encourage you in your faith?
- As segment 2 closes, Darrell says Paul feels like a spiritual father to the Galatian Christians and Scott and Darrell recognize that it is out of love that Paul sought to hold the Galatians accountable and correct their confusion. Have you ever experienced this type of spiritual mentorship? Do you think it's possible to have this type of accountability in your spiritual relationships today, why or why not? What qualities or characteristics are necessary in a relationship to make accountability possible?
- In segment 3, Darrell reflects on Galatians 3:28 and extends Paul's list with some relevant "differences" in today's culture. Reread Galatians 3:26-29. What seeming opposites would you add to the list? Where can you be an ambassador for Christ by allowing unity in Christ to supersede earthly differences?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#), [John 17:20-23](#)

CONCLUSION

Consider again the three lessons Scott and Darrell drew from this study of Galatians 3-4:

1. Christ is central. Our relationship with God isn't based on our ability to keep God's law, but will always be based on our trust in the finished work of Christ, a gift we receive by faith.
2. Live daily as children of God.
3. We have unity as believers and heirs according to God's promise. We are one with Christ and have a unity that transcends all the differences that often keep people apart in this world.

Which lesson encourages you most right now? Which lesson challenges you most right now? Discuss your responses to those questions with God in prayer and close your time by giving thanks for God's law and his deep love for you.

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