

## TODAY'S VERSES:

Galatians 2:15-21

Romans 4:5

Romans 5:8-9

THIS WEEK, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THIS TRUTH OF  
WHAT JESUS HAS DONE, IS DOING, WILL DO...

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## MY NOTES:

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JUSTIFIED SINNERS  
GALATIANS 2:15-21

# Galatians

TO THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA

WEEK NINE |



# Galatians

TO THE  
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WEEK NINE

## JUSTIFIED SINNERS GALATIANS 2:15-21

Up to this point in Galatians, Paul has been recounting his story of how and why he preaches grace and the Gospel. He has been giving a couple of stories about his life, his interactions with the church in Jerusalem, and his confrontation between Peter and himself. This confrontation was about the nature of the Gospel, the essence of the Christian faith, and what a Christian really is.

- **If you are a follower of Christ, how do you know if you are a Christian?**

In this passage, Paul emphasizes the concept of being *justified* by faith in Jesus. The word justified means we are no longer viewed in the same way before God Himself. It means our sins no longer bring us into condemnation and that we are accepted and righteous in God's sight. When we become a Christian, we are justified through Jesus. This doesn't mean we stop sinning; it means our sin no longer has any bearing on our standing before God.

- **What does it mean to be justified? Give some examples of justifiable actions you have heard of.**
- **How has God changed His view of you?**
- **If you are a believer, do you celebrate that your sin no longer brings you condemnation?**
- **If you are not a believer, do you want to be free from condemnation? Discuss what that means and how we all can be set free.**

Martin Luther said that a Christian is *simul justus et peccator*, simultaneously just and a sinner. Tertullian wrote, "As Jesus Christ was crucified between two thieves, so the gospel is ever crucified between two errors." Many Christians intellectually believe in the Gospel, yet fall into one of the following errors:

- *Legalism* – meaning law-ism.
- *Antinomianism* – meaning anti-law-ism.

One writer says, "Legalism is the view that says, 'I'm basically a sinner trying to become righteous.' Antinomianism says, 'I'm acceptable. I'm wonderful. If there is a God, God accepts everybody just as they are.'"

- **How are Christians both justified and still sinners?**
- **Are there any other things (or acts) you naturally seek to bring justification into your life?**

To live out a life as a "justified sinner" is a more demanding and far-reaching way of thinking about Christianity; it goes more places than rules could ever go. Walking in line with the Gospel is to remember we are both a sinner *and* righteous. If we can see these things together, we could truly begin to live lives of strength.

- **Do you tend to be more legalistic (law/rule-keeping) or antinomian (dismissive of rules)?**
- **How do we miss the Gospel when we go toward one side or the other?**
- **How can we remember the truth and not focus on the laws?**
- **Why is it more demanding and far-reaching to live as a justified sinner?**

**Our self-image.** If we live up to our own standards, we may be bold and confident, but we won't be humble. If we fail to live up to our standards, we might be humble but not bold. However, if we are *simul justus et peccator*, there is both a humility *and* boldness at the same time.

- **How does living as a justified sinner affect our self-image?**
- **Why do we become humbled?**

**Our interpersonal relationships.** The Bible teaches that we overcome evil with good. To the depth that we understand we were mercifully forgiven, we are able to forgive others in our heart. Justification by Christ and a culture of grace allows us to confront one another, when needed, in love.

- **How does living as a justified sinner affect our interpersonal relationships?**
- **Evaluate your life, and ask others if they see as being filled with gratitude? Why or why not. If not, what does that mean about what you believe in? Pray for change.**

Justified sinners, who recognize the depth of their sin and the depth of God's saving love for them, are truly grateful.