

Closing the Gap:

Where am I? Where do I want to be?

3 Charges

1. Not a valid spokesperson

2. Not a true message

3. A harmful message

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:1-6

1. Demonstrates his authority

2. Demonstrates the accuracy of his message

3. Demonstrates how the gospel leads to freedom from both law and sin

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 5:1

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value."

Galatians 5:6



Keeping score is a poor substitute for relationship

Pride

Insecurity

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Galatians 5:6

Faith

Love

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."

2 Thessalonians 1:3



Effort is action

Earning is attitude

"He hath made us accepted in the beloved, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Ephesians 1:6-7

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"At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out. Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out."

Numbers 9:18-22

Measure in the moment...a ready state of "yes"