

*Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 5, 2013*



***Life Group & Family***  
**Discussion Guide**

***“Justified by Faith”***

**Galatians 2:15-21**

This week we are continuing our sermon series on Paul's letter to the Galatians. Today's text contains the most foundational piece of the Gospel; namely, Justification by Faith. When God justifies a person, He declares them to be forgiven of all their sin and He gives to them all of the righteousness that Jesus Christ accrued during His earthly life and ministry. Forgiveness and Righteousness are free gifts, received by faith. The more that sinks in, the more we cherish Jesus Christ and seek to do His will.



## DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **Read Galatians 2:15-21.** Discuss some of your initial reactions. Consider that to be justified is to be declared righteous (and, therein, forgiven of all sin).

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2. Count the number of times in vs. 16 Paul mentions Jesus Christ, Justification, Observing the law, and Faith. What is he trying to emphasize? Why?

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3. Discuss the fact that the first appearance of the word justified is in the present tense, the second is in the past tense (actually, the aorist tense which is a past tense verb with ongoing effects), and that the third appearance is in the future tense. How does this help us understand the freedom we have through faith in Christ?

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4. Paul knows people will respond to the doctrine of justification by faith with one question, which he refers to in verse 17. What is that question?

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5. How does verse 18 show that Paul, having just dismantled the idea that we must earn righteousness to be accepted by God, refuses to make obedience a requirement for justification?

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6. In vs. 19, Paul explains that he now lives for God. Who was he living for before? Even though he was trying to obey God's law?

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7. How do vss. 20 & 21 show us that one of the main reasons we turn from our sin, upon believing the Gospel, is so that we can become more like Jesus - the One who lived His whole life for the joy and benefit of others?

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8. If heaven is filled with people who have been enabled (set free) to find great joy in living entirely (100%) to serve others, and hell is filled with people who are forever enslaved to living entirely (100%) to serve themselves... what would both places be like?

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**DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

1. When we talk about the Gospel, we talk not just about being forgiven and declared to be righteous. We also talk about the joy of becoming more like Jesus! Jesus lived his entire life to serve, benefit, bless, and save others. We can't save anybody, but we can live to serve, benefit, and bless others. We can also point them to Jesus who can save them! What are some ways the Gospel can empower each member of the family to serve, benefit, and/or bless others in your neighborhood? Who are some people to whom your family could proclaim the Good News?
2. What are some of the ways we can tell we are beginning to trust in ourselves for righteousness, instead of trusting in Jesus? (Examples: We're devastated when people point out our flaws/sins, we spend more energy trying to serve ourselves than others, we get filled with pride, etc.)
3. How does knowing that Jesus has secured our permanent forgiveness and permanently given us His righteousness change us? (Refer to the opposite of examples above.)

# **SERMON NOTES**