

**Reasons for the Rebuke:**

1. **Hypocrisy and Division. Galatians 2:11-13** Here we read of the practical outcomes of following legalists. Peter had caved to the legalists who were corrupting the gospel. This led to two things the Lord abhors. Hypocrisy in hearts and division in his church. There was to be no division between Jew and Gentile. Matthew 24:14; Ephesians 2:11-18 Legalism is not a sign of spirituality.

2. **Corruption of the Gospel: Galatians 2:14-16** By submitting to the Judaizers Peter was signaling that the works of the law were essential to be welcomed into the family of God. Paul confronted Peter with the truth concerning Justification, salvation and the works of the law.

Justification before God is by faith in Jesus Christ— not the works of the law.

Justified: GREEK *dikaion*: to render righteous, to declare or pronounce one to be just or righteous.

Faith: GREEK *pistis*: concerning faith toward Christ it is a strong and welcome conviction that Jesus is the Messiah through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.

The works of the law cannot bring Justification! (vs 16) So what is the purpose of the law? 1 Tim. 1:8-11

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3. **Defense of Christ's Message and life. Verse 17,18.** Jesus was a friend to sinners. Mark 2:13-17 he declared all foods clean (mark 7:19) The old testament law was not to be rebuilt on the gospel. Jesus fulfilled it for his people. If we try to be approved by faith and the law before God, we are actually a law-breaker— because the only "work" to be done to go to heaven is to believe in Christ. John 6:25-29

4. **Legalism robs a person of new life in Christ. Verse 19-21**

**Verse 19** If our goal is to win approval from God in our own works— we can only fail. Our acceptance before Christ can only be by faith. For the law always leads to death. Vs.19. Romans 7:1-8:4

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**Verse 20** When we believe in Christ, we are actually identified in his death— and we now live a new life. We are united in Christ's death and his life— water baptism symbolizes this biblical truth. Christ comes to live within us— to live his life. This life can only be lived by faith. \_\_\_\_\_

Our daily prayer? "Jesus, live your life in me!"

**Verse 21.** This blessed life in Christ is only available through the grace of God- His unearned favor. (if we try to earn it, it isn't grace). We need grace for salvation and grace for living! If salvation could be earned through the law— Christ's death is meaningless. Adding our own righteousness to Christ's sacrifice is not biblical faith leading to salvation. Faith in Christ= salvations and good works. See James 2:14-25