



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Paul Crucified—Dead, yet Living

Bible Reading: Gal. 2:15-21 NET

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

SUMMARY: Galatians' best-known statement is, "*I'm crucified with Christ...*" We post it on Instagram & frame on our living room wall. Yet it's mysterious, little understood, & applied even less. Here Paul declares that he died, yet this 'dead man' still lives & speaks. What's going on? The core of the Christian life is encapsulated in Paul's dense statement. Let's not rush over it, but proceed step-by-step. God's gift of the Law was good, but Christ is better. Here we see [1.] *Transfer*: by faith & baptism we are transferred '*into Christ.*' [2.] *Union*: As those '*in Christ*' we are united with Christ, like branches grafted into a vine. [3.] *Representation & Participation*: Christ represents his people like David represented Israel to fight against Goliath. Israel participated in David's victory. So we participate in Jesus' death & rising—'co-crucified & co-raised'. [4.] *Indwelling*: Christ indwells the believer; two 'agents' are here. The Christian life is 'dual agents' living together in a transformative relationship.

- **Key Verse:** "I died to the Law so that I might live for God. I've been crucified with Christ. I no longer live, but Christ lives in me & the life...I'm now living in this body I live by the faithfulness of God's Son, who loved me & gave himself for me." (2:19-20 ISV)
- **Paradoxical Paul: A Dead Man Speaks**
"...Here a dead person speaks of his own death & designates the new subject of his life...Christ"—Daniel Marguerat
- **Clarifying Points:**
 1. "Works of the Law" (Gal. 2) Not general 'good deeds'; not Moses' Law (10 Commands) in general; ethnic boundary markers.
 -"*Works of the law*": not moral performance in general, but...Jewish cultural customs & ethnic boundary markers."—T. Keller
 2. "Faith of Christ" (Gk.)—our "Faith in Christ" or "Christ's own faith/faithfulness," his faithful obedience to God (Phil 2:8)
 3. "Justified (by God)"—"declared righteous (approved)," in right relationship with God, a member of God's people

I. What's Wrong with the Law?

A. The Law's 'bar was not too high'—"...as to the law, a Pharisee...as to righteousness under the law, blameless" (Phil. 3:5-6)

1. Paul the Pharisee—totally devoted to the Law (Phil. 3:5b)

2. Paul blameless as to the Law (Phil. 3:6b)

– "It was *not Paul's inability to perform the Law* that led to his conversion."—Robert Jewett

– "Paul had lived enthusiastically in accordance with the well-established norms of Judaism"—John Barclay

B. 'Out-of-the box' Reasoning—From Solution to Problem (Gal. 2:21)

– "*Paul's thought* didn't run from [problem] to solution, but [vice versa]... *God has provided such a Savior...* [So,] *such a Savior must have been needed*" –E. P. Sanders

C. What's wrong with the Law? '*What's wrong with the Law...it's not Christ*' –E. P. Sanders

II. Paul: "I died to the Law so that I might live to God." (Gal. 2:19)

A. An Outrageous Assertion

B. Death—the way to be free from the Law (Gal. 2:19; Rom. 7:4)

C. 'Dead to the Law' by union with Christ (Rom. 7:4)

D. Dead in order to live to God (Gal. 2:19-20)

E. Free from the Law's power/ownership to live to God (directly)

– "As a Pharisee [Paul's] life was totally Law-centered, Law-controlled, & Law-promoting"—Walter Hansen

– Paul died to 'the Law' which governed, controlled his identity, his life. Ask: *what controls, governs your identity, your life?*

F. Paul—devout/zealous Jewish Christian—Died to Moses' Law; what about Gentile Christians? What about you?

G. Law linked to Cosmic Powers ('elements of the world') (Gal. 3:23-24; 4:3, 9)

III. "I have been (& I am still) Crucified with Christ"—Paul (Gal. 2:19)

A. *Transfer*—"Believing *into* Christ" (Gal. 2:16), "baptized *into* Christ" (Rom. 6:3)

1. Entered by "Believing *into*..." (Gal. 2:16)

2. Entered by being "baptized *into*..." (Rom. 6:3)

3. Transferred by God: "It's *from* [God] that you (pl.) *are in* Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:30)

4. "*Into Christ*" (Gk. *eis Christou*) "The basic sense of *eis* ['into' is] movement into a location..."—James Dunn

5. 'Incorporation into Christ'—fundamental & central

B. *Union*—"In Christ" (*en Christo*)—Believers are "*in Christ*" due to their transfer *into* Christ (e.g. "justified *in Christ*" (Gal. 2:17)

C. *Representation*—Christ represents all those 'in him' [as David represented Israel, versus Goliath]

D. *Participation*—"With Christ"—"*I died*"—the Fact (Gal. 2:19a); "*co-crucified with Christ*"—how? When? (Gal. 2:19c)

1. "with Christ" (Gk. *syn Christo*)

2. "*I died*"—the Fact (Gal. 2:19a); "*with Christ*"—how? When? (Gal. 2:19c)

3. "I'm crucified with Christ..." (Gal. 2:20) explains "I died...to live to God" (Gal. 2:19a)

IV. United with Christ—Grafted into Him

(Rom. 6:5 EXB; Rom. 11:17, 24; Gal. 2:20)

A. Grafted into Christ (Rom. 6:5 EXB; Rom. 11:17, 24)

B. 'Union with Christ' is *not* divinization, absorption into Christ, nor the loss of personhood

1. Not Deification (becoming God, or a god) [2.] Not total annihilation, nor replacement; [3.] Not diminished personhood

C. "*Co-crucified*" (Gal. 2:19c) "*united with him*" (Rom. 6:5)—both in the perfect tense

D. 'Double Agency'—Both 'Christ lives in me' & 'I live'

– “Both...‘Christ lives’ & ‘I live’ [are] true...[It’s] simultaneously the agency of the believer *and* the agency of Christ.”—J. Barclay

– By “‘Christ living in me’...the believer is...not diminished...[We should] *banish* ‘zero-sum’ calculations of agency (*the more God, the less the human*)...”—John Barclay

E. “*I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*” (Gal. 2:20)

F. “*I live by the faithfulness of God’s Son...who loved me & gave himself for me.*” (Gal. 2:20)

QUESTIONS:

Here’s the key Verse: “I died to the Law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ. 20 I no longer live, but Christ lives in me & the life that I’m now living in this body I live by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me & gave himself for me (2:19-20)

This Scripture (reproduced below) is broken down into 9 phrases. As a group assign each person a phrase (or phrases). Then have each person explain their understanding (i.) of their phrase & (ii.) how it adds (elaborates) on previous phrases.

1. “I died to the Law...
2. so that I might live for God. [Or ‘in order to live to God.’]
3. I’ve been crucified with Christ. [or ‘I am crucified with Christ’]
4. I no longer live, but (Christ lives in me)
5. Christ lives in me &
6. the life...I’m now living in this body (‘flesh’)
7. I live by the *faithfulness* of the Son of God, [or ‘I live by *faith* in the Son of God’]
8. (the Son of God) who loved me
9. (the Son of God who) gave himself for me”