

Introduction: Authenticity & Authority

“For many people, the Socratic injunction to “know thyself” forms the moral core of the Western intellectual tradition and its modern formulation – “to thine own self be true” – captures the fullness of our commitment to authenticity as a moral ideal”

“This is a world where truth has ceased to have any connection to reality, where each person’s “truth” becomes as valid as any other person’s, and where the only thing that matters is the isolated, self-contained ego – You, and your Feelings.”

- Andrew Potter, *The Authenticity Hoax*

Main Point: When _____ and _____ are divorced from truth, the result is often a love for the things of the world and a hostility towards the things of God.

Galatians 1:10-14

- Paul asks two questions and then answers them by identifying himself as a _____ of Christ. (v. 10)

(1) The questions focus on whose _____ Paul is seeking in how he carries out his ministry.

“am I now seeking the approval of man or of God?”—πείθω (peithō)—to appeal to; to strive to please

“Or am I trying to please man?”—ἀρέσκω (areskō)—to act in a fawning manner, win favor, please, flatter

- The false teachers moving among the Galatian churches were *Judaizers*. The term comes from a Greek word meaning, “to live according to Jewish customs.” They recognized Jesus as the Messiah but considered adherence to the Law as necessary for salvation, blending grace with human works.

“Evidently, the Judaizers were claiming that Paul openly presented half a gospel in his evangelistic mission in Galatia, purposefully trimming his message so as to gain a more favorable response.” –Richard Longenecker

(2) The accusations of the Judaizers are countered with reference to both his _____ and _____ actions.

“If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ”

- While Paul has no problem presenting Christ in a pleasing or _____ manner (1 Cor. 10:33), the Gospel itself does not appeal to our fallen nature (1 Cor. 1:22-25).

Key Point: Living as a servant of Christ will necessarily bring us into conflict with the _____ and its values.

- Paul is the servant of Messiah because of the divine _____ of the Gospel he preached. (vv. 11-12)

(1) The Gospel that Paul proclaimed among the Galatians was not “_____ to man.”

“not man’s gospel”

- Although Paul has no issue with truth being passed down and taught (1 Cor. 11:23), this was not how he came to understand and proclaim the true Gospel and its implications.

“I did not receive it from any man”—παραλαμβάνω (paralambanō)—used of the reception of a religious tradition or body of instruction that is passed along.

“nor was I taught it”

(2) The Gospel Paul proclaimed was received through direct, divine _____.

“I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ”

- The use of the term “revelation” underlines both the heavenly _____ and eschatological significance of the message Paul preached.

Jesus Christ is both the _____ and the _____ of the Gospel Paul preached.

“...Paul is referring to his Law-free Gospel for the Gentiles which focuses on and is based on faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross which provides one with right standing before God. This distinctive message about Christ Paul admits is not the sort of thing human beings could come up with on their own. It had to be revealed by God for it to be known at all.”
- Ben Witherington III

Key Point: As servants of Christ, we proclaim the Gospel with _____ in Jesus’ power to save and in the authority of His revealed _____.

- Paul reminds them of his _____ way of life which he had mistakenly believed to be honoring to God. (vv. 13-14)

(1) Before his dramatic conversion, Paul’s way of was derived from and totally characterized by “_____.”

“Judaism”—Ἰουδαϊσμός (Ioudaismos)—referring to the Jewish religion and way of life; possibly coined by Hellenists as a term of contempt but embraced by religious Jews and used positively in their writings.

➤ Paul gives additional detail about his Jewish way of life in Phil. 3:5

...circumcised on the eighth day →

...of the people of Israel →

...of the tribe of Benjamin →

...a Hebrew of Hebrews →

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(2) This identity in Judaism motivated him to _____ the Church.

“I...violently tried to destroy it”

➤ Paul was more educated and more knowledgeable regarding Jewish teaching than his contemporaries, having studied under the famous rabbi Gamaliel.

“I was advancing...beyond many my own age”

➤ Because of this, he was extremely passionate about what he believed to be the truth and so he thought the destruction of the church was of the utmost importance (Acts 22:3-4).

“so extremely zealous...for the traditions of my fathers”

(3) Ironically, Paul’s knowledge and zeal led him to _____ the true work of God (Acts 5:34-40).

(4) The life of Paul is important for understanding the relationship between Jewish identity and Christianity.

Certain aspects of Jewish identity can be maintained by _____ Jewish believers.

Religious Judaism (even Messianic) that requires the keeping of Torah undermines:

1. _____ 2. _____

“Paul’s entire argument in Galatians is about how the Galatian Christians should or should not live now and in the future. It is not about getting in, or staying in, but about the right and wrong ways of going on, one leading towards unity, community harmony, and progress in the Christian life, the other leading to disunity, discord, and even apostasy.”

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Key Point: We do well to _____ what lies behind our passions and to do so in accordance with God’s Word and among the _____ of His people.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

- The Galatians must understand that Jesus Christ is the source of Paul’s Gospel and should recognize that its truth creates a distinction between true servants of Christ and those who would bind believers to the Jewish Law and traditions.

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Main Point: When zeal and knowledge are divorced from truth, the result is often a love for the things of the world and a hostility towards the things of God.

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1. Justification

2. Sanctification

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