

## Galatians 2:17-21

### Crucified

The church of Jesus Christ is the one organization where, to enter its membership, you must say you have no \_\_\_\_\_ to enter it. In fact, you have to admit your abject \_\_\_\_\_ in living to its standards. Your entry is predicated on \_\_\_\_\_ qualifications on your behalf.

The apostle Paul had fear but his fear was focused on a \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ. Since his fear was genuine, he didn't fear \_\_\_\_\_. There was no \_\_\_\_\_ in his attitude toward Jesus and His gospel. Peter, at least when in Antioch, seemed to compromise and, sadly, seemed to nullify the finished work of Jesus.

I wonder if Paul had Peter in mind when the Holy Spirit inspired him to write the last verse, possibly the most important in all Galatians? Paul wrote: "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose."

I. Is Christ a \_\_\_\_\_ of Sin?

Paul was combating the Judaizers here and Peter basically had given approval to their teaching. Remember? They taught that becoming a Christian was preceded by keeping Jewish law. So Paul reasons that if it was true for the gentiles, then Peter, Barnabas and Paul himself had fallen back into the category of sinners by eating with the dogs (gentiles). How about Jesus Himself who had taught that no food can spiritually contaminate a person. So Christ must be a minister of sin.

GOD FORBID! Paul wrote. The ESV says "certainly not." The NIV says "Absolutely not." The real question is this: Is the grace of Christ the reason for my sin? You'd think so. Philip Ryken wrote "it has to be admitted that some Christians are not the best \_\_\_\_\_ for Christianity." Luther wrote "A Christian is not someone who has no sin or feels no sin; he is someone to whom, because of his faith in Christ, God does not \_\_\_\_\_ his sin."

II. I am \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

## Galatians 2:17-21

### Crucified

Paul uses the perfect tense here. The idea is "I have been crucified with Christ (with the result that I still am). What happened in the past is still \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. May I say today that you having mere intellectual assent, mere agreement, with the truth of Jesus and His cross is insufficient. Paul understood that, as he believed in the crucified Savior, a \_\_\_\_\_ had also taken place \_\_\_\_\_. He continues the thought: I live but no longer I. The death of Jesus had meant an entry into a way of life in which he identified with his Savior. That meant it was no longer the \_\_\_\_\_ who lived. That Paul was \_\_\_\_\_. His faith was not some mere Sunday morning topic. It was the air he breathed.

The best way for you to discover your best life now, your genuine identity is being a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. Having a healthy self image is directly related to being \_\_\_\_\_ with God and understanding your purpose in Christ.

III. Did Christ die \_\_\_\_\_?

To make something "null and void" is to make it meaningless. Nullifying God's grace is when you reject the fullness of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and think you can help out some. That is to nullify His grace.

You must see that the Judaizers believe keeping the law was really what saved them. The logical outgrowth of this view is that the death of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

"It is an intolerable blasphemy to think that you or I could somehow please God with our attempts at righteousness. God can only be placated by this immense, infinite price: the death and the blood of the Son of God, one drop of which is more precious than all of creation."  
Martin Luther

"If you or I add the works of the law to the sacrifice of the cross, then we make a mockery of Jesus' death just like the soldiers who spat on him, the thieves who insulted him and those who yelled for him to come down from the cross."

Tim George