



# OFF-BRAND JESUS

September 29, 2024  
Sermon Study Guide  
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*Off Brand Jesus:  
When New is Better  
Galatians 5:1-6*

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.<sup>2</sup> Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.<sup>3</sup> I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.<sup>4</sup> You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.<sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. Galatians 5:1-6 ESV*

## A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Brian begins this teaching by reminding us of the Antinomian Gnostics and their beliefs.  
*In some Christian belief systems, an antinomian is one who takes the principle of salvation by faith and divine grace to the point of asserting that the saved are not bound to follow the moral law contained in the Ten Commandments. Antinomians believe that faith alone guarantees eternal security in heaven, regardless of one's actions.*
  - The Antinomians swung to an extreme. When the pendulum swings from one extreme to another it can be challenging to discern the truth of how to live as a Christ Follower even today in 2024. But the Apostle Paul was writing to The Churches of Galatia because they were being influenced by false teaching (Judaizers) challenging them to live under the Mosaic Law rather than living in the freedom offered as a result of Christ death and resurrection on the cross.
  - Think of a time when you found yourself living in way that indicated that you had forgotten that Jesus' sacrifice had redeemed your life. What did this imply both for you and for other Christ Followers?

2. The body seeks something called *homeostasis*. In other words, homeostasis is a mechanism that maintains a stable internal environment despite the changes present in the external environment. When we are uncertain or challenged, we tend to gravitate back to what is familiar to us don't we?

- If you've known someone who struggled with an addiction you witnessed their need to go back to something keeping them in a physical, spiritual or psychological bondage. How can we break free of spiritual bondage and still live a godly life?
  
- Perhaps you have tied your own identity to a former title or a previous job, but the identity was only a part of who you are. Your true and complete identity as a Christ Follower is one who is redeemed and created by God and therefore filled with the Holy Spirit. But this requires faith that God's word is truth. What did the Apostle Paul want the Galatians to know about their own salvation?

*The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. - Romans 8:3 (NLT)*

- If someone in a church told you today that you had not earned the title of Christ Follower, how would you respond?

3. Read this passage in Galatians 3:1-6 to better understand Paul's exhortation to the men and women in Galatia. What is the tension in these verses?

*O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—<sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?*

4. Read Galatians 5:16-24.

*<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

- What is your primary source for understanding the power of the Holy Spirit and how living a Spirit directed life will bring you freedom?

- Paul had been instrumental in founding the churches in Galatia and he fully understood the freedom offered to both Jews and Gentiles through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. But even today there are churches that will impose rules for their church community that do not accurately reflect scripture and in doing so place burdens on the individuals in that church community. So how do we navigate similar challenges today to what Paul was faced with as he redirected the Galatians to live by grace and show love to one another?

## **WALKING IT OUT**

- This week when you are uncertain about how to live as a Christ Follower look back at Galatians 5:16-24.
  
- This week extend grace to others and show love to them understanding that Christ died for them too.