



The Jew-Gentile Controversy in the New Testament

New Testament Survey

The Diaspora



Peter's Ministry to the Gentiles



Persecution and Expansion



The Jerusalem Council



The position of the Judaisers

- ✦ One must be circumcised and then live in obedience to the law of Moses in order to be saved. I.e., one had to become a Jew first, then a Christian. ("Judaise" = to make a Jew of someone)
- ✦ Acts 15:1 "But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Paul's arguments against Judaising influences

✦ *Legal Argument*

- ◆ If one submits to circumcision, he is obligated to obey the *whole* law (Gal 5:3). Impossible!

✦ *Historical Argument*

- ◆ Faith, in Abraham's instance, preceded circumcision; Abraham (Gen 15:6) was declared righteous by faith before he was circumcised (Gen 17). Therefore keeping the Law is not what justifies. In fact, the Law was given (Ex 20) centuries after God gave his promises to just men like Abraham.

Paul's arguments against Judaising influences

✦ *Logical Argument*

- ◆ Law and grace are antithetical. If we can work our way to God, or to heaven, then there was no need for Christ to come and be sacrificed

✦ *Theological Argument*

- ◆ Because God has destroyed the barrier between Jew and Gentile (that is, the law), there is no distinction in Christ. (Eph 2:11-22)

The Witness Of The Book Of The Acts

- ✦ Gospel to all nations (Acts 1:8)
- ✦ Conversion promise for those who are who are “far off,” namely the Gentiles (2:39, 13:47 + Eph 2:13)
- ✦ Samaritans converted. Confirmation sought apostles sent from Jerusalem (Acts 8).
- ✦ Paul chosen to minister to Gentiles (9:15, 22:15, 26:17).
- ✦ Peter is taught a lesson (Acts (8+)10:1-11:18)
- ✦ Peter is taught another lesson (Gal 2:11+)

The Witness Of The Book Of The Acts

- ✦ Persecuted Christians start sharing with Gentiles (11:19+)
- ✦ First Missionary Journey begins (13:3)
- ✦ Jewish reaction to missionary successes negative (13:44+)
- ✦ Council at Jerusalem (15)
- ✦ Meeting in Rome (28:17-31)

Opposition To Gospel Of Grace: The Enemies Of Paul

- ✦ Many times in Acts (e.g. 22:22)
- ✦ Rome: preventing a potential split
- ✦ Corinth: pressure to be circumcised (1Cor7:18-19)
- ✦ Galatia: almost fallen away on account of Judaisers
- ✦ Ephesus: unity between Jews & Gentiles in Christ
- ✦ Philippi: "Watch our for those dogs..." (3:2)
- ✦ Colosse: Judaising philosophy (esp. 2:11-20)
- ✦ Thessalonica: jealousy of *Jews* (1Th 2:14-16)
- ✦ Ephesus: in Timothy's ministry (1Tm 1:3-7)
- ✦ Crete: in Titus' ministry (1:10-16)

Paul's Emphasis on Grace in Light of the Judaisers

In conclusions to his letters:

Rom 16:20, 1 Th 5:28 1 Cor 16:23 2 Th 3:18

2 Cor 13:14 1 Tm 6:21 Gal 6:18 2 Tm 4:22 Eph 6:24
Ti 3:15 Phil 4:23 Phm 25 Col 4:18

In introductions to his letters

Rom 1 : 7 1 Th 1:11 Cor 1:3 2 Th 1:22 Cor 1:2 1 Tm
1:2 Gal 1:3 2 Tm 1:2 Eph 1:2 Ti 1:4 Phil 1:2 Phm 3
Col 1:2

And everywhere else!

Legalistic Mentality

✦ In first century

- ◆ be circumcised
- ◆ Jewish heritage and traditions
- ◆ Visit the Temple or synagogue regularly
- ◆ neglect the heart: Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself

✦ In the 21st Century

- ◆ Be baptized
- ◆ Denominational traditions, tow the party line
- ◆ Be faithful to attend church services
- ◆ Neglect the very thrust of discipleship of Jesus

Justification By Faith...

- ✦ does preclude earning our righteousness,
- ✦ does not preclude obedience, (i.e., is the opposite of justification by works),
- ✦ historical ^{Text}perspective of the doctrine of justification by faith,
- ✦ Luther's misunderstanding (James 2)