

ἄλλο μὲν οὐκ ἐστὶν ἀρχὴ μόνου ἀ
πολεῖ αὐτὴ καὶ δημοσὶ ἐργασ

GALATIANS

No Freedom,
No Gospel

καὶ πῆσσαν
ταύτην τῶν

ἀφίσαν
τὸς αὐτὸ
λαλοῦσα
πρόμα

Galatians 2:1-10

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was

not running or had not run in vain.
But even Titus, who was with me,
was not forced to be circumcised,
though he was a Greek. Yet
because of false brothers secretly
brought in—who slipped in to spy
out our freedom that we have in
Christ Jesus, so that they might
bring us into slavery—to them we

did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. On the contrary, when they

saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John,

who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and **set before them** (though privately before those who seemed influential) **the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles**, in order to make sure I was **not running or had not run in vain.**

For I would have you know, brothers,
that the gospel that was preached by
me is **not man's gospel**. For I did not
receive it from any man, nor was I
taught it, but I received it through a
revelation of Jesus Christ.

His commission was not derived from Jerusalem, but it could not be executed effectively except in fellowship with Jerusalem. A rift between his Gentile mission and the mother-church could be disastrous. Christ would be divided, and all the energy that Paul had devoted, and hoped to devote, to the evangelizing of the Gentile world would be frustrated.

—F. F. Bruce



But even Titus, who was with me,
was not forced to be circumcised,
though he was a Greek.

1 Samuel 17:26

And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this **uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

Yet because of **false brothers** secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery

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.”

Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who **slipped in to spy out our freedom** that we have in Christ Jesus, **so that they might bring us into slavery**

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free;
stand firm therefore, and do not submit
again to a yoke of slavery.

did not yield in submission even for
a moment, so that **the truth of**
the gospel might be preserved for
you.

Acts 16:3

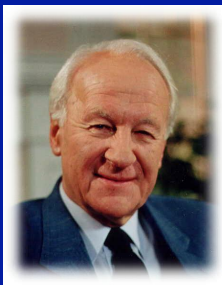
Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

1 Corinthians 9:19-20

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

Although Paul accepts their *office*
as apostles, he is not overawed by
their *person* as it was being
inflated by the Judaizers.
– John Stott



saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John,

who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

The Christian is not free to do what the Bible forbids. Christian freedom does not entail the right to fornicate or to steal or to lie or to persist in an unforgiving attitude or to do anything else the Scriptures explicitly prohibit. And a person who lovingly points this out to you is not a legalist for having done so!

– Sam Storms



There are people who have all the issues buttoned down and have cast-iron opinions about all of them. They insist you live your Christian life according to their rules and their opinions. If you insist on being free to live as God wants you to live, they will try to intimidate you and manipulate you one way or another. Their primary weapons are “guilt trips,” rejection, or gossip. These people must be resisted. We must not allow them to subvert the freedom we have in Christ.

– Jerry Bridges

