

Identity Crisis - Discussion Questions

Galatians 2:15-21

Ice Breaker Question(s)

1. If someone asked you, "Who are you?" how would you answer? Would you answer differently depending upon who was asking?

Read Galatians 2:15-21

Often, Paul's complex passages like this one are best understood if you approach them from the end to the beginning since he sums up everything in a single climactic statement. This is very true of Galatians 2:15-21. When you get to a passage that may be difficult, we suggest that you read the passage in a translation (NLT, NIV, ESV) *and* "The Message" since the author of the Message does a good job explaining Paul's meaning.

Galatians 2:19-20.

1. What main points does Paul make about the true identity of Christ-followers?
2. How does Galatians 2:20 speak to the issue of whether only Jewish Christians belong to the true people of God or whether in Christ non-Jews can also belong without first becoming Jews?
3. Read: It's a difficult concept for Western minds, but when Paul states that we are "in Christ," he is alluding to an idea that goes all the way back to the Jewish kings. The king was the representative of the people. When David fought Goliath, he represented all of Israel. And when kings worshiped idols, all of Israel was guilty. What is true of the king was true of the people.
4. In light of the above explanation, what does it mean to be crucified with Christ?
5. What does it mean that "Christ lives in me?"
6. Vs.19 – How is living for God different than trying to keep the Law?

Galatians 2:15-16

1. What is the foundation of our being declared "right with God?"
2. The heart of Paul's argument is that one must lose everything and must accept and learn to live by a new identity with a new foundation. What old identities have you discarded or should you discard because of being in Christ?
3. Why is this so difficult?

Application and Prayer

1. What do I need God to do **in me** or **through me** as a result of today's discussion?
2. Who do I need to pray for as a result of today's discussion?