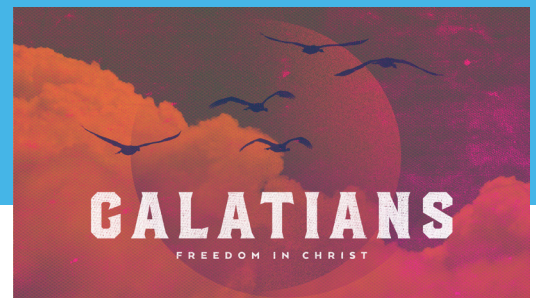


Discussion Questions

April 12, 2026



Dead, Yet More Alive Than Ever - Galatians 2:19-21

This week's message walked through Paul's extraordinary claim in Galatians 2:19–21, that he has been crucified with Christ and yet is more alive than ever. The law, like a perfect mirror, could diagnose what was wrong but had no power to fix it. When Paul was united to Christ by faith, his old identity, the one built on the scorecard of performance, died on the cross with Jesus. But that death was the doorway to resurrection life. Now Christ Himself lives in Paul through the Holy Spirit, not as a metaphor but as an empowering presence, the difference between breaking your back cranking an engine by hand and opening the valve to let the steam do the work. This new life is sustained not by a one-time decision but by ongoing, active faith, a daily posture of trust and gratitude. And Paul warns that adding anything to the finished work of Christ doesn't upgrade the gospel; it nullifies it, declaring the cross pointless. The Christian life is not law-driven pressure from the outside or passive drifting, but Spirit-empowered transformation from the inside out..

1. The sermon used the image of workers in a factory breaking their backs trying to crank a massive steam engine by hand - exhausting effort producing almost nothing. Where in your life right now does your faith feel like that? What would it look like to stop cranking and open the valve to the Spirit's power instead?
2. Read Galatians 2:19–21 aloud together. What phrase or image from the passage stands out to you most, and why?
3. In the Greek, "I have been crucified with Christ" is in the perfect tense, a completed past action with permanent present results. What is the significance of this? How does it change things to hear this as something already done to you rather than something you need to keep doing?
4. Paul says "through the law I died to the law." The sermon described the law as a doctor who can diagnose exactly what's killing you but has no medicine. What are some modern "law systems," moral, cultural, or personal scorecards, that function the same way, pointing out your flaws but offering no real power to change you?
5. The sermon made a distinction between conviction and condemnation, conviction is specific, draws you toward repentance, and sounds like a Father who wants you back; condemnation is vague, crushing, and drives you into isolation. When you fail, which voice do you tend to hear first? What would it look like to practice recognizing the Father's conviction this week?
6. The sermon suggested that years of believing don't automatically produce a life that looks like Jesus, the calendar doesn't do the work, the Spirit does. If someone who knows you well were to compare who you are today with who you were five or ten years ago, would they see a clear increase in patience, gentleness, kindness, generosity, joy, etc? Why do you think it's so common for Christians to accumulate decades of faith without much visible growth in these areas, and what does Paul's distinction between performance-driven effort and Spirit-empowered formation suggest about why that happens?
7. Paul ends with a severe warning in verse 21: if righteousness could come through our performance, "Christ died for nothing." What are the subtle ways you're tempted to add something to the finished work of Christ, your moral track record, your theology, your service, your politics, and how does this warning land for you personally?

Galatians 2:19–21 (NIV)

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do NOT set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Galatians 2:19 (NIV)

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God

**Under the old system the law stood over you and said "perform"
Under the new system Christ moved into you and said "I will do this with you"**

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ ..

Dr James Dunn

"I have been nailed to the cross with Christ and am still hanging there with him"

3 points about the verb "Have been crucified"

1. It is PERFECT tense.
 - The action is complete, the old self is already dead
2. it is PASSIVE voice
 - It was done to you, you did NOT crucify yourself, but God united you to Christ's death
3. it is INDICATIVE mood
 - This is a statement of fact, not a command

It's not "try harder to die to yourself," but "believe the reality that your old self is already dead"

Dr. Gordon Fee

"Christ in me" and "the Spirit in me" are the same experiential reality.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God -

"Christ lives in me" is not about becoming someone else. It is Christ living your specific, particular life through you

Galatians 2:21 (NIV)

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

To think that my effort or performance can contribute even a little to my standing before God is to say the Son of God was tortured and killed for absolutely no reason.

The Holy Spirit brings conviction
The enemy brings condemnation & shame

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

"the life I NOW live in the body I live by faith" -

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."