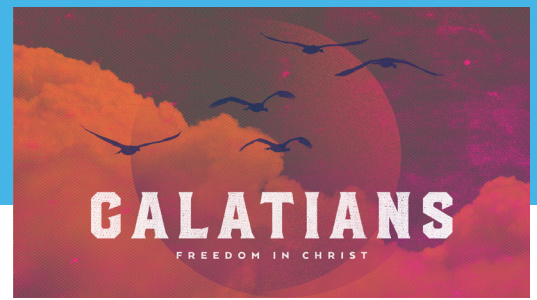


# Discussion Questions

March 1, 2026



## Galatians 2:1-10 - The Gospel Has No Asterisk

In Galatians 2:1–10, Paul recounts one of the most important meetings in early church history. He deliberately brought Titus, an uncircumcised Greek, into a room with the most powerful church leaders to force the question: Is Jesus enough for this man? When false brothers demanded Titus conform, Paul refused to yield “even for a moment,” protecting the gospel not just for Titus but for every future believer who would hear it. The pillars, James, Peter, and John, examined Paul’s gospel, added nothing to it, and extended the right hand of fellowship. Yet Paul writes with visible frustration, because he knows Peter will soon betray that handshake by withdrawing from Gentile believers. The sermon challenged us to stop adding unspoken requirements to the gospel, to recognize grace even in unexpected packaging, and to keep reaching toward imperfect community even when it has wounded us.

Read Galatians 2:1–5

1. Paul went to Jerusalem “because of a revelation,” not because he was summoned, and he had already been preaching for fourteen years before this meeting. Why does Paul make such a point of this? What does it change about how we read the rest of the passage?
2. Paul deliberately brought Titus, an uncircumcised Greek, into a meeting with the most powerful Jewish leaders in the church. Why would Paul do this instead of just making a theological argument without Titus present? What was at stake if the leaders had said “circumcise him”?

Read Galatians 2:6–9

3. Paul uses the phrase “those who seemed influential” four times and cannot even finish his sentence in verse 6. His emotions hijack his grammar. What do you think is driving this frustration? Is he angry at the pillars themselves, or at something else?
4. Paul clearly respects the apostles. He still calls them pillars, still values the handshake. But he says “what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality.” The sermon distinguished between the titles not being the problem and the pedestal being the problem. Where have you seen leadership in your church experience used to serve and build up the family? Where have you seen it used to gatekeep or divide?
5. Paul refused to impose circumcision, a requirement God Himself originally gave. If even a God given law cannot be added as a condition for belonging, what are some of the subtler, unspoken requirements we put on people today before we truly treat them as family?

6. Paul has every reason to walk away. The men who shook his hand will soon betray the handshake. But he does not walk away. He writes the letter, fights for the churches, and keeps reaching. If you are comfortable sharing, have you experienced the kind of church hurt where the people who were supposed to represent grace demanded performance instead? How does Paul's response challenge or encourage you?
  
7. The sermon made a distinction: "Adding nothing" is about who you are keeping out. "Recognizing grace" is about the people already inside. Can you see what God is doing in someone whose faith looks very different from yours? Is there someone in your life you have been tolerating instead of actually looking for God's fingerprints in? What would it look like to reach toward them this week?

**Galatians 2:1–10 (ESV)**

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 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. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

4 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 — 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 6 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.

7 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 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 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.

**Galatians 2:1–2 (ESV)**

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.

**Q: Is Jesus enough for him?****Galatians 2:3 (ESV)**

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

**Galatians 2:4-5 (ESV)**

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.

**Galatians 2:6 (ESV)**

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.

**NT Wright**

Galatians is not primarily about how individuals get saved, it is about who was a member of the family of God

**Galatians 2:6 (ESV)**

Those... who seemed influential **added nothing to me.**

### **Galatians 2:7-9 (ESV)**

*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.*

### **Galatians 2:9 (ESV)**

*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.*

**Paul is utterly inflexible on the message but completely flexible on the method**

**Look for the grace of God in people**

#### **1. They added nothing**

**- what are you adding?**

#### **2. And they recognized grace**

**- are you recognizing grace?**