

## Galatians 6:11–18

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#### 1. How did some “make a fair shew in the flesh”?

- “As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh...” that is, the Judaizers, who evidently are seeking to appease their party or, perhaps, the unbelieving Jews.
- “They constrain you to be circumcised...” Just as they had tried with Titus (Acts 15:1–5; Galatians 2:4, 14), they continued with the Galatians (5:1–4).
- “Lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ...” Paul identifies their motives. These Judaizers are under pressure from unbelieving Jews in Judea and Asia (Acts 6:9; 13:50; 14:19; 21:27). They want a compromise in order to avoid persecution.

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### 2. What was the motive for preaching circumcision?

- “Lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ...” As noted, Paul identifies their motives. These Judaizers are under pressure from unbelieving Jews in Judea and Asia (Acts 6:9; 13:50; 14:19; 21:27). They want a compromise in order to avoid persecution.

Paul identifies the “cross” as the cause of this persecution. It is so because the “cross” put an end to the Law and the need for circumcision (Colossians 2:10–14). Paul continued to preach justification by grace through faith apart from the Law which is the offense of the cross for which he was continually persecuted (5:11).

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### 3. How would the Judaizer “glory in your flesh”?

- “For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law...” It is important to note the hypocrisy of the Judaizer position (Acts 15:5). Paul charged they kept not the Law (Galatians 3:10–12; 5:3; *cf.* Romans 2:23); therefore, circumcision is all they can point to as essential to salvation. However, that position is untenable.
- “But desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh...” These Judaizers were boasting to their unbelieving kinsman that they were proselytizing the Gentiles. Literally, boasting in the numbers of men they had circumcised.

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### 4. In what did Paul “glory”?

- “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” The only thing in which Paul would boast or glory is the cross or death of Jesus. Again, his boasting is justified because he is not boasting in himself, but the grace of Christ (Jude 25; 1 Corinthians 1:27–31; 2 Corinthians 10:17).

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### 5. How was Paul “crucified” to the world?

- “By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world...” Through the cross of Christ we are dead to the world and the world is dead to us (Romans 6:4–6; *cf.* Ephesians 4:21–24; Colossians 3:1–11). We are no longer following the deceitful lusts of the world (1 John 2:15–17) but we are led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:13–14, 17; Ephesians 4:22–23).

Paul was crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20) when he was baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3). When he was raised to walk in newness of life Christ was living in him.

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### 6. What avails in Christ?

- “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision...” It doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile; there is no respect of persons with God (Romans 2:11). Mutilating the flesh has no merit (Acts 15:24; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6; Romans 3:1).
- “But a new creature...” What does matter is whether, or not one is a baptized believer (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23; 3:21; Mark 16:16). Being “in Christ” is what avails (Romans 6:3–5; Galatians 3:27).

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### 7. What is the rule of Galatians 6:16?

- “And as many as walk according to this rule...” The rule that neither circumcision or uncircumcision avails, but justification by grace through faith (Galatians 5:6; 6:15). To “walk” is to obey the Gospel (Colossians 2:5–7).
- “Peace be on them, and mercy...” God’s grace and mercy is upon those that walk according to this rule. Paul from beginning to end of this epistle speaks to salvation.

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### 8. Who is the Israel of God?

- “The Israel of God...” This is the church of Christ (Galatians 3:7, 9, 29; Philippians 3:3; Romans 2:29; 4:12). God did not cast away the nation Israel to be lost, but He has determined that all that are His people are not of the nation of Israel (Romans 9:1–6; Galatians 4:23). Those who are the children of Abraham are those who are walking in the steps of the faith of Abraham (Romans 4:12, 16; Galatians 3:26–27; John 8:39).

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### 9. What marks did Paul bear in his body?

- “From henceforth let no man trouble me...” Paul is done. He has said all he intends to say regarding himself, his apostleship and the misrepresentations of the Judaizers. He has answered them thoroughly, completely and by inspiration.
- “For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus...” Paul refers to the actual scars that he has as a result suffering and persecution (Galatians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 1:5; 11:23–25; Colossians 1:24).

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## Today's Take Aways

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1. There is no merit in my ancestry, my personal righteousness, my life outside of Christ with respect to my relationship with God.
2. Christ is the only means of salvation.
3. There are always hypocrites.
4. Justification by grace through faith in Christ is the only way.
5. There comes a time when we have said enough.
6. Amen.