



SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians)

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Scripture: Galatians 3:23-29

Tuesday, 11/03/20

TITLE: One in Christ Jesus

We live in the age of individualism. It's the age of personal computers, tablets, iPhone, ear pods for personal listening, self-expression in the areas of clothing all the way to sexual identity. But have you ever thought that our efforts for individuality may be the cause of segregation and isolation?

I think it's true.

Our desire to be individualized has created many barriers and obstacles and done a lot of harm. But the Apostle Paul reminds us of the importance of what Christ has done in tearing down the man-made walls. Listen to what Paul says in Galatians chapter three:

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Paul says for as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. What Paul is saying there is we have been baptized in the spirit we are now clothed in Christ. That is our identity. But then he hits it even harder. He says in verse 28 that there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Let's just speak openly and honestly – our individuality is killing us. We have the individuality of the person, but we also have the people group. We are talking so much today about racism and we're talking again about segregation. We're talking about promoting one's feelings over facts. Here back to the Bible recognize that these issues are real. We recognize that people are hurting and confused and that breaks God's heart. But these issues are driving us into isolation.

In Galatians 3:28 Paul says it doesn't matter if you're black or white. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor it; doesn't matter if you go to a private school or Christian School. It doesn't matter whether you come from a divorced family or an intact family. God is the God of reconciliation, period. Your identity is in Christ alone.

Does that mean we deny our ethnicity? Does it mean we deny our traditions or our backgrounds or our preferences? No! What it means is that the vision we experience here in this world is only remedied by the blood of Jesus Christ. That is why he says if we are in Christ then we are heirs according to promise. The inheritance promised to Abraham is now ours. No more division. No more segregation. No more isolation. We are one in Christ. Therefore, let the gospel tear down the barriers that divide us. Let us rally around the truth of who we are in Christ and the truth of God's Word!

