



SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023

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Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Scripture: Galatians 6:11-13

TITLE: Spiritual Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is something we all struggle with. I wish I could say it was just my teenage son who experiences and falls victim to it. But we all do. We see it in the areas of sin. We also see it in the world of religion.

When we fall victim to peer pressure, we are putting our heels into the dirt of our spiritual walk. If you are feeling spiritually stuck today, it is highly likely that you have fallen victim to peer pressure. Do you want to become spiritually unstuck? Then we have to take the apostle Paul's words seriously in Galatians chapter 6 beginning in verse 11.

See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

The apostle Paul continues to crack me up because he's a bit sarcastic and pretty blunt. In verse 11 he says, "See what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand?" It's kind of like saying, "Do you understand the words that are coming out of my mouth?" Or, "Is this microphone on?"

What is he trying to convey? There are people in our lives who will try to influence us away from Christ. This is both true for people who profess to be believers and for people who are truly far from God.

Paul is writing the book of Galatians to address the issue of legalism; trying to earn your way to God. There were people who profess to be believers who said they figured out the truest gospel. But the problem is, they were adding on to what God had finished.

Today we become spiritually stuck because we add to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and not of yourself." In other words, salvation comes freely by God and you can't earn it or buy it.

If you're feeling spiritually stuck today, chances are this may be why. You are not resting in God's grace, but instead you're returning to your old religious ways and you're wearing yourself out and you feel distant from God.

Or perhaps you're watching your spiritual influencers and they are like those in verse 13, who say, "Look this is what works for me, but you should do this because it might work for you." That relativistic philosophy has no place in the Bible or in the Kingdom of God.

We know that we cannot earn our salvation. We know we cannot by our own power please God. There is one way to peace with God and that is through His son Jesus Christ. Nothing more and nothing less.

Today if you're feeling spiritually stuck, remember God is near you. God wants you to trust Him. He said, "My grace is sufficient for you, rest in my grace." God said in Jeremiah 29:13, "If you look for me wholeheartedly you will find me." God loves you. He cares for you. He wants the best for you, and this can only be experienced when you trust Him and rest in His grace. Do this and He will get you moving again.