

### **Genesis 1:31 (AMP)**

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was **very good** and He **validated** it completely.

### **Genesis 3:8b-11**

... they **hid from the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard you in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**, so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup> Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

**Many of us walk through life amassing a sense of who we are through all the **feedback** pinging back at us.**

### **Galatians**

- **Paul has to correct a church**

### **Galatians 1:10 (NLT)**

... I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If **pleasing people** were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.

### **Galatians 2:3-5**

But not even Titus, who was with me, was **compelled** to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. <sup>4</sup> This matter arose because some **false brothers** had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order **to enslave us**. <sup>5</sup> But we did not give up and **submit to these people** for even a moment, so that the **truth of the gospel** would be preserved for you.

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

In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the **gift God had given** me, and they **accepted** Barnabas and me as their **co-workers**. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews.

### **Snapshot of Paul:**

**Who he is in Christ has given him settled affirmation, acceptance and approval. He is free from people-pleasing and can live authentically and courageously.**

### **Galatians 2:11**

But when **Cephas** (*Peter*) came to Antioch, I **opposed him to his face** because he stood **condemned**.

### **Galatians 2:12-13**

For he regularly ate with the Gentiles **before** certain men came from James (*Jerusalem church*). However, when they came, he **withdrew and separated himself**, because he **feared** those from the circumcision party. <sup>13</sup>Then the rest of the Jews joined his **hypocrisy**, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

*{come up one at a time; same slide}*

**We all **SEEK** approval.**

**We all live with a **SENSE** of approval (or disapproval).**

**We all have a **SOURCE** of approval.**

### **Acts 10:34**

Peter began to speak: “Now I truly understand that **God doesn’t show favoritism** ...

### **Acts 11:20-23 (NLT)**

... some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of **these Gentiles** believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the **church at Jerusalem** heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw this evidence of God’s blessing, he was **filled with joy**, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord.

### **Galatians 2:14a**

But when I saw that they were deviating from the **truth of the gospel** ...

**Paul could have called out favoritism and racism ... but those are fruits.**

**He goes to the root!**

### **Galatians 2:14-16**

But when I saw that they were deviating from the **truth of the gospel**, I told Cephas in front of **everyone**, “If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?”

<sup>15</sup>We are Jews by birth and not “Gentile sinners,” <sup>16</sup>and yet because we know that a person is **not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law **no** human being will be justified.

**“Gentiles to live like Jews”**

- Gain God’s approval through laws, rituals, ceremonies, etc.

**“Justified ...”**

- Legal term
- Opposite of condemnation
- Being righteous: rightly related to God & His rule

**“truth of the gospel ... Justified ... by faith in Jesus Christ ...”**

→ What does this *really* mean?

God is going to issue judgement.

- According to **truth** (Romans 2:2)
- According to **works** (Romans 2:5-6; 3:10)

**Romans 2:6; 3:10 (NLT)**

He will judge everyone according to what they have done ... as it is written:  
*There is no one righteous, **not even one**.*

God is going to issue judgement.

- According to **truth** (Romans 2:2)
- According to **works** (Romans 2:5-6; 3:10)
- According to **Christ** (Romans 4:25)

**Romans 4:25**

He was **delivered up** for our trespasses and raised for our **justification**.

**Romans 8:1**

... there is now **no** condemnation for those **in** Christ Jesus ...

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

He made the One who did not know sin to be sin **for us**, so that **in Him** we might become the **righteousness of God**.

**Romans 6:3-4a, 5**

... are you unaware that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized **into** His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with him by baptism **into** death ... <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with Him **in** the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be **in** the likeness of his **resurrection** (see Romans 4:25)

**Justified:** freed from the fear of judgement of **God in the future** and of **people in the present**

*“Justification is God’s last-day verdict about us that’s been brought forward for us to enjoy this present day.”*  
{Sinclair Ferguson}

Justification is not subject to **degrees**; it is an irrevocable **declaration** (verdict) of God

**Peter:** allowed the approval (fear of disapproval) of people to erode his grasp of the **approval the gospel** gives and the **settled status** of justification provides.

*{one slide; come up one at a time}*

➤ **The Mood You are in:**

- How life is coming at us AND our interpretation of it
- How people are responding to us (or could respond to us)
- Paul to Peter: remember your own salvation!

*{all together; one slide}*

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*{one slide, all together; keep formatting}*

**SPIRITUAL SURVEY:**

- A
- B
- C
- D