

The Confession of Paul (Part 2)  
Gal 2:1-14, 20-21

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV) *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

- I.     The Christian confession
  - A.     Christian Confession - a one sentence summary of your life in Christ to this moment
  - B.     Born
    - 1.     Of conversion
    - 2.     Of commitment
  - C.     5 Components of Commitment That Lead to Christian Confession
    - 1.     Last week
      - a.     The unique nature of the gospel - the direct revelation of the person and purpose of God in Jesus Christ
      - b.     The transforming power of the gospel - the means and message by which God transforms sinners into saints
      - c.     The necessity of dedicated devotion - time spent alone with Christ, being instructed in the word by the Spirit, is crucial for development of Christian confession
    - 2.     Today
      - a.     Christian commitment and character develop in the crucible of conflict
      - b.     Christian confession summarizes a life lived in utter reliance and dependence on God
- II.    Components of Commitment That Lead to Christian Confession
  - A.     Christian commitment and character that lead to a Christian confession develop in the context of conflict.
    - 1.     **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.***
    - 2.     Background in Galatians
      - a.     14 years after his last visit, Paul returns to Jerusalem as a result of a divine revelation, to report on the content of his ministry
      - b.     Paul includes here a specific detail for the benefit of his Galatian reader
        - (1)     Titus accompanied Paul to Jerusalem
          - (a)     Titus the Greek
          - (b)     Titus the Gentile
          - (c)     Titus the Uncircumcised
        - (2)     The problem in the Galatian church for which Paul writes

this letter is a “false gospel” that requires Christians to become Jews via circumcision in order to be fully Christian

- (a) Some Jews have infiltrated the Galatian church and were teaching that Christians must keep the Law of Moses
- (b) Paul writes to the Galatians for confront and correct this error.
- (c) As soon as Paul mentions taking uncircumcised Titus to a meeting in Jerusalem with the church leadership, you know that got his Galatian readers attention.

(3) What happened in Jerusalem?

- (a) Titus
  - i) Titus was not forced to be circumcised
  - ii) Titus was not forced to become Jewish in order to be Christian
- (b) **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.*
  - i) False brothers brought in
  - ii) We did not yield for a moment
  - iii) Inherent question for the Galatians:
    - a) Paul did not yield
    - b) Titus did not yield
    - c) Leadership did not yield
    - d) Jerusalem church did not yield
    - e) Galatians,
      - 1) why did you yield?
      - 2) Why are you resubmitting to a Law you cannot keep?
      - 3) Why are you becoming enslaved once again to a false gospel that will not save you when you already have the true gospel that will save you and set you free?!

c. The path to a pure, vibrant, Christian confession passes through the crucible of conflict

- (1) Wouldn’t it be nice if the life of faith were easy, without opposition, difficulty, rejection, and resistance?
- (2) What can we learn about the development of a Christian

confession in the context of conflict

- (a) Expect the world to resist the gospel AND your faith
  - i) ***John 16:33 (ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.***
  - ii) Paul illustrates the validity of Jesus words
- (b) Expect sabotage!
  - i) ***Acts 20:28-31 (NIV) 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.***
  - ii) The enemy of God attacks from both the outside and the inside to destroy the work of God in and through the people of God.
- (c) Expect the opposition to ignore your sincerity and deny your convictions.
  - i) It does not matter that Titus would become the pastor of the church on the island of Crete.
  - ii) Neither his position or his potential stalled the attack
- (d) Expect your opponent to care little for the truth and much for themselves.
  - i) Anytime anyone focuses more on their way of thinking than on God's revelation of Himself in His word and His Son, be wary.
    - a) The Judaizers were not saying Gentiles could not be saved.
    - b) They were saying the Gentiles had to become Jewish in order to be saved.
    - c) They were focusing the desire of the Gentiles on themselves rather than on Christ.
    - d) Paul's response: Stand fast in the

- freedom wherewith Christ has made you free.
- ii) NOTE: Paul acts “*so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved.*”
  - a) The truth of the gospel must be preserved by those who KNOW the gospel for those who don’t know the gospel.
  - b) **You, Christian, need to know the gospel.**
    - 1) You can’t preserve it if you don’t really know it.
    - 2) One of the reasons the church in America, and the culture in America today, is in the state of corruption and decay it is in, is because far too many people who call themselves Christians do not truly know the gospel and have not worked to preserve it for those who don’t know.
  - c) **Some of you don’t know the gospel well enough to preserve the truth of the gospel in the world.**
- B. Why make such a big deal about knowing the gospel better than we do?
1. **Ephesians 6:13-18 (ESV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.**
    - a. The scarf of error will not serve you when you need the belt of truth
    - b. The flimsy film of doubt will not protect you when you need the shield of faith
    - c. The butter knife of unbelief will be of no use when you need the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.
  2. **If we are going to be well protected in the battle of faith, a battle for our lives in which our personal confession develops, then we must know the truth of the gospel well enough to preserve it for ourselves and others.**

- a. Sunday school
    - b. Wednesday evening
    - c. Personal devotion (Bible study)
  - 3. Paul's confrontation of Peter is also an example of "preserving the truth of the gospel."
  - 4. Key Question: What is preserved in the minds and hearts of others, regarding Christ and the gospel, by your life, by your words, by your heart, by your conduct?
    - a. Do you preserve
      - (1) Your own convenience?
      - (2) Your own reputation?
      - (3) Your own economic stability?
      - (4) Your own ego benefit?
    - b. Or do you preserve
      - (1) The truth of the gospel at all cost?
      - (2) The reputation of Christ at all times?
      - (3) The glory of God in all things?
      - (4) The integrity of the word in all ways?
    - c. Where do your time, energy, and resources go? To preserve the truth of the gospel or to your own self-interest?
  - 5. Paul confesses, having lived in the crucible of conflict, "I am crucified with Christ."
    - a. At the very least he means, "I live my life to preserve the truth of the gospel for which Jesus lived and died and was raised from the dead.
    - b. "I set everything of my own self-interest aside in order for the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be realized and preserved in my heart and life."
    - c. Paul confesses
      - (1) Christ is the inclination for every act of will
      - (2) Christ is the motivation for every word spoken
      - (3) Christ is the goal of every relationship nurtured
      - (4) Christ is the measure of every decision made
      - (5) Christ is the scale for every value considered
      - (6) Christ is the essence of every moment lived
      - (7) Christ is the superlative before whom everything else in my heart, mind, will, and spirit gladly bows in awestruck and loving surrender.
- C. Paul's confession develops in the crucible of conflict where in every way he purposes to preserve the truth of the gospel.