



The conformity challenge

June 11, 2018

GALATIANS 1:6-10 NKJV – (6) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— (7) which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! (9) As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! (10) Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Today I will be addressing those claiming Christianity, claiming God as your Father, but yet you have a problem with submitting to the one God has placed in the sanctuary (I'm only talking about leaders in great standings). Therefore, they accuse, make false accusations on His leader and then they throw scripture back at them that they are totally incorrect in defining. What they are saying is nothing more than something they heard somebody else say. They refuse to be educated (taught), many of the problems simply has to do with being hurt by someone else, and sometimes its total rebellion and therefore, they try to conform you to their worldly expectations and will continue to do so until they feel you will bow down to them! They will tell you they love everybody, but "I don't necessarily like this one or that one." Not in the scriptures at all!

Paul was astonished that people in the church were drifting back to their pagan ways so quickly. This record is proof of what can happen if we do not use what we profess to believe in, developing the relationship God has made available. If we do not have faith in what brought us out of the world, then we will eventually return to our former state. It is that simple. If we lack faith in what brought us out, we will regress to what we were before. Or perhaps, some of them never left.

Only a little more than a generation had passed since the founding of the church, yet false gospels, perversions of the truth, were making serious trouble for those early Christians. Paul was warning members of the church in Galatia not to listen to those who are trying to persuade them away from the true doctrines of God, which they had learned when the apostles had preached the true gospel to them.

After warning them in **verses 8-9**, Paul goes on to defend himself against the unwritten question, "How do we know that you preached us the truth?" He asks in return, "From what you've seen of me (APPLICATION), do I try to seek the favor of men or God? Do I seem to be a men-pleaser?" **Clearly, he always put the truth of God before pleasing people, and he had had to pay the price for it in persecution and peril (II Corinthians 11:23-33). LET THAT LAST SENTENCE BEFORE THIS ONE MEDITATE IN YOUR MIND!** He considered these sacrifices proof that he was a true servant of God.

Here Paul defends his message. He has already stated that there is only one gospel, but he is now forced to answer, "Why should yours be the only one?" Since there is only one gospel, why could not an entirely different gospel be the right one? Paul's defense is to stress the origin of his message, and **verse 10** is a transition that leads into his answer. What he preached was not done to please men at the expense of the message.

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 14:15

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Your gift should never take you to a place where your character can't keep you.