

GALATIANS

The Authentic Life in Christ and Guidelines for Guarding the Authentic Life

The Authentic and the False Gospel			The Seed and Promise of Abraham and the Two Covenants		Guidelines for Guarding the Authentic Life	
Our context is Christ and the Galatians turned to a different Gospel	The Authentic Word	The false gospel based on circumcision and The Law	The Promise of the one seed of Abraham	The two covenants of Hagar and Sarah	Chose to live by the Fruits of the Spirit rather than the sinful nature	Guidelines for dealing with backsliders and those who lead you astray
1: 1 - 10	1: 11- 2: 10	2: 11 - 3: 14	3: 15 - 4: 20	4: 21 - 5: 15	5: 16 - 26	6: 1 - 18

The process we are using to study all of the following letters of Paul is called “Identifying the Deep Problem.” For some familiar with this process is has been called “Identifying the Underlying Contradiction.” Unless this process is applied to Paul, then many of his solutions become proscriptions that, today, appear sexist and irrelevant. At their worst the solutions fall into moralism. Gut Trip Analysis maintains that the Bible is not a moral statement. Rather, the Bible is an “Indicative statement,” one that addresses “objective facts.” Indicative statements **indicate**, or point to, “Just the facts, please.”

The problem and solution--

As we begin this study it is helpful to note that each of the issues Paul addresses in all of his letters are distinct problems clearly associated with a particular city, parish, or circuit of churches. Consequently, to assume that his advice is to be taken universally misjudges Paul’s intentions. The particular problem, or irritant, is clear. But Paul’s solution is based on identifying the Deep Problem to which the solution is to be applied. It is this Deep Problem that offers us the universal nature of his solution. **What is preventing the solution to the problem? This is called the Deep Problem--**After working this format a few time, Paul’s letters become puzzles to be solved. Two of the three parts are present: the problem and a solution. The third part is identifying *out of our own human experience*, the deeper problem that is preventing the solution.

The Deep Problem is never our situation! Our situations are only The Way Life Is (TWLI). Our Deep Problems are always factors over which we have control. For instance, is the lack of money the problem we have when paying our bills? No! The lack of money is just TWLI! The identification of what is preventing us from not having enough money is the deeper problem to be solved. The solution then becomes self-evident; spend less, earn more. Paul’s solutions have this characteristic. It is not because we are bad that we are immoral, our deep problem lies in our relationship to God! And there you have it. WES |