



The Life I No Longer Live
Galatians 2:20
Dr. Joe Parle

Fake Shoes Illustration

Galatian Influences

- Fake Gospel
- False Gospel
- Free Gospel
- Paul writes the Galatian believers to demonstrate that the gospel of salvation by grace through faith that God gave him is not only essential for salvation but also for sanctification.

Fung says, “As a result of his participation in Christ’s death on the cross, Paul now explains ... the life he now lives is not lived by him—by the ‘I’ of v. 19 [For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God], the self-righteous Pharisee who based his hope for righteousness and salvation on strict observance of the law—but by Christ, the risen and exalted One, who dwells in him.”

Key Points

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20 NASB)

1. Substitutional Death of Christ (Die to self)
2. Substitutional Life of Christ (Christ lives in me)
3. Source of Life in Christ (I live for Christ)

Substitutional Death of Christ

- “I have been crucified with Christ.”
- “It means three things: (1) a man on a cross is facing in only one direction; (2) he is not going back; and (3) he has no further plans of his own.”

Substitutional Death of Christ

Commenting on this, T. S. Rendall wrote,
“Too many Christians are trying to face in two directions at the same time. They are divided in heart. They want Heaven, but they also love the world. They are like Lot’s wife: running one way, but facing another.

Substitutional Death of Christ

Remember, a crucified man is not coming back. The cross spells finished for him; he is not going to return to his old life. Also, a crucified man has no plans of his own. He is through with the vainglory of this life. Its chains are broken and its charms are gone.”

- In the light of these truths, would you say you are acting like a “crucified” Christian?

- H.G.B., Our Daily Bread, Saturday, November 28

Substitutional Death of Christ

I have been crucified is perfect passive (crucifixion is one type of death a person cannot do to himself) – a past completed action that happened to a person

- Our old man/woman died (was crucified) on the cross
- Recognizing that we “have been crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2:20), we should, as Paul admonished in Romans 6:11, consider ourselves “to be dead indeed to sin.”

Substitutional Death of Christ

We still have sinful tendencies within, but having died to them, sin no longer has dominion over us. We die to our selfish desires and pursuits. But believers must also think of themselves as “alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

We should do those things that please Him. Victorious Christians are those who have died—to live!

- R.W.D., Our Daily Bread, Saturday, July 30

Substitutional Death of Christ

John Gregory Mantle wrote, “There is a great difference between realizing, ‘On that Cross He was crucified for me,’ and ‘On that Cross I am crucified with Him.’ The one aspect brings us deliverance from sin’s condemnation, the other from sin’s power.”

Substitutional Death of Christ

Constable says in his Expository Notes on Galatians, “If someone is dead he has no more responsibility to what killed him. He is in that sense free (cf. Rom. 7). He can from then on devote his energy as a resurrected person, not to pleasing the Law, but to pleasing God.”

Substitutional Death of Christ

Application: Christianity is not primarily about rule following. For Jewish leaders, the cross was an object of shame but for Paul it was an object of glory. They gloried in the flesh but Paul gloried in the death of the old man with the Savior.

Substitutional Death of Christ

Connection with prior context with Peter, “For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God” (Gal. 2:18-19 NASB).

Substitutional Death of Christ

Wiersbe writes in the Bible Exposition Commentary, “Peter had experienced God’s grace in his own salvation, and he had proclaimed God’s grace in his own ministry. But when he withdrew from the Gentile

Christian fellowship, he openly denied the grace of God. Grace says, 'There is no difference! All are sinners, and all can be saved through faith in Christ!' But Peter's actions had said, 'There is a difference! The grace of God is not sufficient; we also need the Law.'"

Substitutional Life of Christ

"and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me"

Dr. Dave Anderson said, "The hardest thing for the unbeliever to believe is the substitutional death of Christ (that Christ died in our place). The hardest thing for the believer to believe is the substitutional life of Christ (that Christ lives in our place)."

Substitutional Life of Christ

The law says we must do to be but grace says we must be to do (be holy as God remade us to be holy)

Source of Life of Christ

"and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

Source of Life of Christ

Constable says in his Expository Notes on Galatians, "When a person trusts Christ, God identifies him or her with Christ, not only in the present and future, but also in the past. The believer did what Christ did. When Christ died, the believer died. When Christ arose from the grave, the believer arose to newness of life. My old self-centered life died when I died with Christ. His Spirit-directed life began in me when I arose with Christ. Therefore, in this sense, the Christian's life is really the life of Christ ('Christ lives in me')"

Source of Life of Christ

The life Paul now lives in the body is by daily ongoing present faith (now live) in the substitutional life of Christ as opposed to legalistic self-effort rule following

Paul can also trust Him because of His great personal love and the sacrifice He made on his behalf (“loved me and gave Himself for me”) – gospel

Source of Life of Christ

God gave His Life for us, in order to give His Life to us in order that He might live His Life through us as we trust Him by faith!

Tripp says we never outgrow the gospel.

Key Points

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Closing illustration: Dog illustration and only son (our future plans)