

Why do Bible believing Christians disagree on these things:

Infant baptism

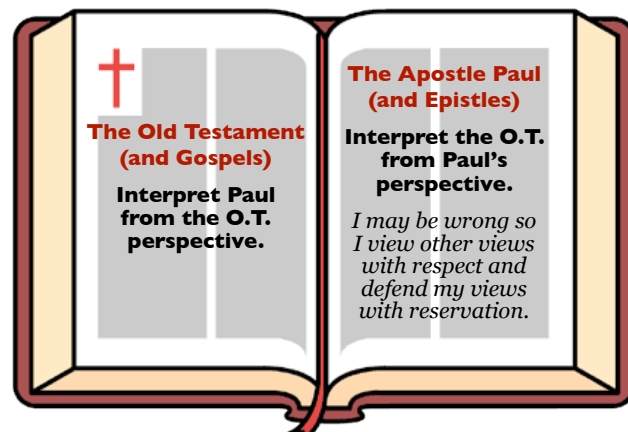
Sabbath observance

The relationship between faith and works

Church architecture (altar or pulpit central)

The relevance of the O.T. to the Christian life

Why do Bible believing Christians disagree on these things:



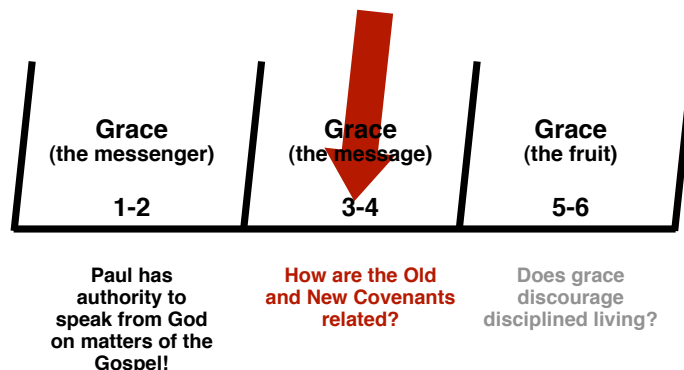
3:23-29

GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Heirs need a Tutor

The letter to the Galatians



Galatians 3:23-29

“23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith, which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Galatians 3

“23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith, which was later to be revealed.”

1. Paul suggests that faith was not a characteristic of those under the law.



Jewish obedience



Christian faith

Galatians 3

“23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith, which was later to be revealed.”

The WAY of Judaism and Christianity today (contrasted)

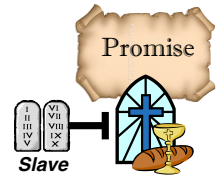
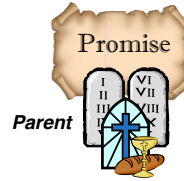


Jewish obedience



Christian faith

Is the Law Covenant an extension of the Promise? (Old Testament) YES (Paul) NO



How is Christian faith unique to the Gospel age?

- ✓ The object of faith has always been God.
- ✓ The content of faith is linked to the stipulations of the particular covenant one is living under.

Mixing the covenants is confusing & controversial.

- ✓ Are both the O.T. and N.T. telling the same story?
- ✓ Building structure, rituals, faith/obedience, clergy, etc.

Galatians 3

“24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.”

παιδαγωγός **paidagogos** “**tutor**”(role, guardian)

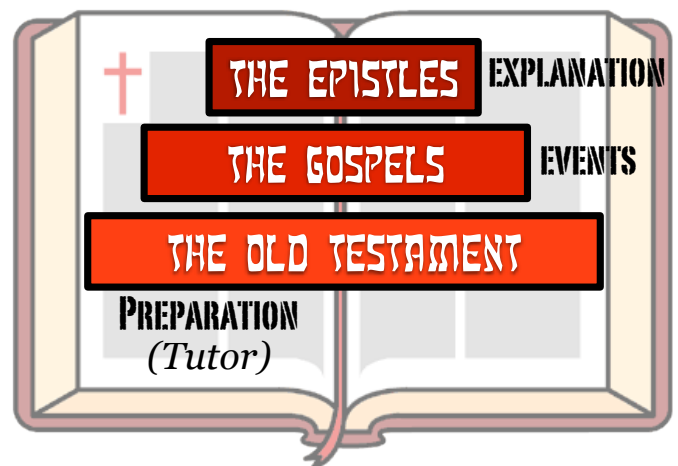
ἐπιτροπὸς *epitropous* “guardian” (authority, superior)
παιδαγωγὸς *oikonomos* “manager” (position, head of house)

- ✓ A slave put in charge of the young boys in a household preparing them to be wise men of virtue and character.

2. The law was to prepare us so that when Christ came, we would be ready to respond with faith.

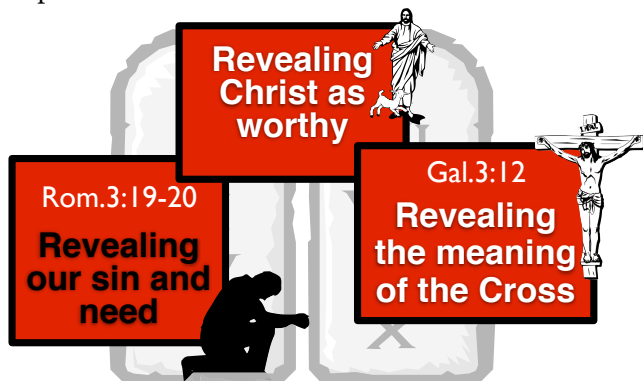
- ✓ Condition us to make wise decisions when faced with adult challenges.
- ✓ Protect us from foolish patterns of thought and behavior.
- ✓ Lead us to the Cross, the Messiah, and the Faith.

THE GOSPEL STORY



Luke 24:27

“And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”



Galatians 3

“25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

3. The law’s function as a tutor is finished when we come to faith.

Free from the Law (Christians)



Above the Law (Libertines)
Outside the Law (Gentiles)
Under the Law (Jews)

What does it mean to be free from the Law?
The next few weeks will address this in more detail.

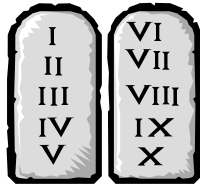
How should Christians view the Law of Moses?

Romans 10:4

“For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Christians are free from the Law -

- as a covenant of works righteousness



- but not as an ethic of the Kingdom

Galatians 3

“26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

4. Faith (baptism) puts all of us “in Christ” erasing any former cultural hierarchy.

How does this passage affect gender roles in the church?

The context of this passage is “heirs by faith” not “ministry roles.”

Galatians 3:28

“28. . .There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, **heirs according to promise.**”

A parallel passage teaches gender roles -

Col. 3:11 “a renewal in which there is no distinction between Jew and Greek . . .”,
vs.18 “Wives be subject to your husbands.”

The role of slave and master, Jew and Gentile did not change.

Three different understandings of gender roles in ministry



Egalitarian

Differences are blurred.



Authoritarian

Differences are exaggerated.



Complementary

Differences are celebrated.



The Law’s role as a Tutor

1. It prepares us to receive Christ.
2. Once we come to faith we are no longer under law.
3. The ground is level at the foot of the Cross.