

Diverging Gospels

Galatians 1:1-10

As Christ followers, we all come up under the spiritual authority of specific pastors or teachers. This spiritual _____ and _____ are integral parts of the freedom we have in Christ.

Discussion 1. What pastors or teachers do you consider as part of the spiritual authority God has placed over you? What are the benefits to you of having that kind of spiritual covering in your life? Does it make you feel “less free”? Why or why not?

There is only one way to be in right standing with God: belief in Jesus and thereby _____ Jesus’ standing with the Father. Christ followers should reject any teaching that adds conditions to this or that takes away from this simple gospel.

Discussion 2. Can you think of any “false gospels”, i.e., teachings that, in your mind, try to add to the gospel or take away from the gospel? What are some spiritual disciplines that help you keep your focus on the true gospel message?

At the end of all the cultural Christian litmus tests and false gospels, my eternal security comes down to one profoundly simple question: have I _____ my life to Jesus? Anyone adding anything to that is dangerous.

Discussion 3. What is so dangerous about adding conditions to the gospel message? Why does it create such urgency to address it?

Finding a way to relate culturally in order to share the gospel does NOT mean changing or “diluting” the gospel to please people. Our primary concern must always be _____ with the gospel we preach.

Discussion 4. How do you test whether the gospel being taught to you is the true gospel or not? How do you test whether the gospel message you are teaching others is the true gospel or not?