



## Abolition—Week Two: Justification

**Connect:** Scott shared about his family's vacation to the beach and biking together. What is a recent vacation trip you've been on? What fun things did you get to do with friends or family this summer?

### Grow

1. **Read Galatians 2:1-10.** Why is the gospel such good news to the Jews? Why was it a problem when this good news of freedom started to reach people who weren't Jewish?
2. *"Jesus sets you free" vs. "Works set you free".* When we think of what we contributed to our salvation, we tend to think that what we continue to do either adds to or takes away from being saved. How can this lead to a fear-based, works-driven religion?
3. **Read Galatians 2:11-14.** Peter was worried about things like: *What will people think if they see us with them? Eating with them? Embracing them? Accepting them? What will the insiders think about me if they see me hanging out with outsiders?* Compare that to the example Jesus set for us with his life. How is this connected to Jesus' "fulfilling the law"?
4. **Performing for others...** Paul knew how easily it can happen to any of us. Paul had seen it happen to Peter and even his companion Barnabas. Are you and I vulnerable to this, too?
5. **Read Galatians 2:15-21.** How many times is the word "justified" used in these verses? What are the differences between the word "justification" and the word "condemnation"?
6. We think that God inspects us only to declare, "Go clean yourself up, and then you can come back to me." While He is actually saying is, "I already made you clean." Do you ever try to earn what you already have? What does Paul want the Galatians and us to know about our standing with God?
7. **Read Galatians 2:21 and Romans 8:1-2.** If we could save ourselves, what would that say about Jesus' death on the cross?
8. Scott shared, ***"Because of what Jesus has done for me, I can be free from the exhausting pursuit of credit and recognition."*** What about for you? What's wearing you out? Is it acceptance, keeping up appearances, or trying to be good enough?

**Pray:** Take some time to thank God for what Jesus' death on the cross means for you. Personalize it. Thank Him for the freedom He has purchased. Ask God to help you see the emptiness of other things we put our hope in and ways we try to clean ourselves up. Thank Him for being your good Father.

**Next:** As an exercise for your heart and mind, write out a list of sins that you struggle with and/or any of the things you do to earn God's favor. Next to each one, try to think about why you are tempted to do those things. What lie are you giving in to? What longing are you trying to fulfill? What condemning voice are tempted to listen to? Lastly, go back through the list and write out "Jesus sets me free" next to each one!