**Loving Our Neighbors**

**The Gospel—The Greatest Love Story Ever Told**

**Love that Delivers Us from Our Burdens**

**Job 25:4** - *How then can a man be just with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?*

3 burdens our loving Savior wants to remove from your back

**I. Christ’s Love Removes the Burden of Your Legalism**

**John 17:20-21** - *I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

**Acts 10:15** - *Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”*

**Acts 10:34-35** - *Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.*

**v. 12** - *For prior to the coming of certain men from James…*

**Acts 15:3-6** - *Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.*

**Acts 15:7-11** - *After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”*

**Galatians 1:6** - *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel…*

**Galatians 3:1** - *You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?*

A. Your legalistic view of how you can be reconciled to God

**Galatians 2:16** - …*nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.*

B. Your legalistic separation from others

1. Such behavior is just an attempt to elevate self

**v. 12** - …*he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof…*

2. Such behavior is motivated by the fear of man

**v. 12** - …*fearing the party of the circumcision…*

3. Such behavior makes you a sinner

**Galatians 2:17** - *But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners…*

4. Such behavior makes Christ a minister of sin

**Galatians 2:17** - *But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!*

**II. Christ’s Love Removes the Burden of Your Hopelessness**

A. You can now live to God

**Galatians 2:19** - *For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.*

**Galatians 3:24** - *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*

B. Because of the power of your union with Christ

**Galatians 2:20** - *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.*

**Galatians 5:22-24** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

**III. Christ’s Love Removes the Burden of Your Perfectionism**

**Galatians 5:1** - *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*