

Sunday—February 15, 2015

Lesson by Kevin Holmen

About Initiations / Requirements in order to Join / Belong

Question: what kind of requirements have you had to meet in order to belong to a group?

Passage Reading: how does Galatians 2:1-10 help the Galatian churches?

**Paul Preserves Titus' Freedom in the One Gospel (2:1-3) [cf. 2:5]**

Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem? A revelation (2:2). Generous solidarity (2:10).

How would Paul have been running for nothing? (2:2)

Had Paul been wrong? Were the Apostles divided?

What would it have been like for Titus?

Not compelled to be circumcised (2:3) His freedom preserved (2:5)

Be free to worship God—sing Hosanna together (Psalm 118:25-26)

**Paul Ranks Influence Below the One Gospel (2:4-6) [cf. 2:2]**

Why is influence important—in general society and in the church?

God shows no partiality (2:6)

Non-pejorative: esteemed, influential, pillars (2:2, 6a, 6b, 9)

His gospel is independent but *not different* from theirs

Resisting spies who snuck in

Pejorative: sneaks, seeking to enslave (2:4)

Be free to belong—you are welcome in this place

**Paul Receives Apostolic Fellowship Based on the One Gospel (2:7-10)**

Distinctive mission spheres, but no division in mission (2:7-9)

God is the one works in calling both (2:8)

Be free to contribute—remember the poor (v. 10)

Exercises:

What benefits of our freedom (belonging to Christ) have we taken for granted?

What requirements are you susceptible to add to the gospel?

Why is important to esteem leadership *and* subordinate their influence under the gospel?

What does your belonging imply for your *belongings*?

Narrower: what does this mean in this present season and our specific church?

How will Gal 2:1-10 help when life together gets complicated among diverse Christians?

What is significant to you about the verbs related to the gospel (2:2, 2:5, 2:7)?

## —Likely Chronology and Geography—

Date	Event	Reference	Lesson
33/34	Paul's conversion	(Gal 1:11-17)	
36/37	↑Jerusalem "Interview" meeting Cephas	(Gal 1:18-24)	[last week]
44-47	↑Jerusalem "Conference" // Famine Relief	(Gal 2:1-10 // Acts 11:25-30)	[this week]
44-47	↓Antioch Dispute, correcting Cephas	(Gal 2:11-21)	[next week]
46-47	First Missionary Journey Paul plants "South Galatia" churches	(Acts 13:13-14:28)	
48	***Paul Writes Galatians***		
48-49	↑Jerusalem Counsel	(Acts 15:1-35)	

Figure 1 (Source: <http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/pauls-first-journey-map.html>)