

Sermon Pastor Michael TeKrony

May 16, 2021

Paul continues responding to the church in Galatia where he has heard that some were requiring new Gentile believers in Christ to follow the Jewish laws and traditions, in order to be considered true believers and followers of Christ.

Paul, throughout his letter, makes it clear that the mark of a true believer and follower of Christ is the GRACE of God, pure gift, through Jesus Christ. Where people make distinctions between different peoples in regard to their validity and acceptance into the church, Paul passionately stands and writes "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

With God's grace being the mark of God's Church, I wonder what Paul might say to these:

Lutheran or Catholic

ELCA or Missouri Synod

Baptized as an infant or Baptized as an adult

Sprinkled with water or Full-on dunking

"Forgive us our sins..." or "Forgive us our trespasses..." or "Forgive us our debts..."

Grape juice or wine

Wafer or bread

Traditional or Contemporary or not sure what those really mean

*Amazing Grace* or *Burn the Ships*

Worship on Saturday night or Sunday morning or Monday morning or Friday night or Tuesday afternoon

In person or online

Should have been in person a long time ago or I'm not comfortable yet to be in person

Able to recite your confirmation verse or never been confirmed

Just showed up today for the first time or been a member for over 60 years

Member or long time participant and never officially joined

Wearing pajamas during worship or Got dressed up in your Sunday best and actually wearing socks today.

Denver Seminary or Iliff School of Theology or Luther Seminary or Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Layperson or Deacon or Pastor

Get there early to sit in the back or Get there early to sit up front

Never been on council or been on council numerous times or "There's a council?"

Piano or organ or banjo or harmonica

Judas or Peter

Spoken lyrics or singing with gusto

Head bowed or arms and head raised high

I bet I've missed some. Maybe you can name some more.

May we hear again, Paul's passionate words for us today.

We are all ONE in Christ Jesus

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We are all one in CHRIST JESUS.

Amen.