

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians You Are All One in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:28

1. What is the Meaning of Paul's Statement?

The three couplets that Paul uses here, as well as a few others in other epistles (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 3:11), are obviously meant to illustrate an essential equality between all believers.

- A. There is Neither Jew nor Greek (Gal. 3:28)
There is no distinction in the way anyone is justified before God.
- B. Jews or Greeks are All Together in One Body (1 Cor. 12:13)
Areas of service within the church is not based upon worldly divisions.
- C. There is no Distinction Between Greek and Jew (Col. 3:11)
Conformity to Christ results in the elimination of worldly divisions.

2. What is the Significance of Each Couplet?

- A. Neither Jew nor Greek (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:13)
There is no **nationalistic** division or privilege in Christ (cf. Gal. 2:13-15).
- B. Neither Slave nor Free Man (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:13)
There is no **economic** distinction or privilege in Christ (cf. Ja. 2:1-7).
- C. Neither Male nor Female (Gal. 3:28)
There is no **gender** distinction or privilege for receiving salvation.
- D. No Distinction Between Circumcised and Uncircumcised (Col. 3:11)
No external **religious** heritage is privileged or maintained in sanctification.
- E. No Distinction Between Barbarian and Scythian (Col. 3:11)
No historical or **cultural** heritage is privileged or maintained in sanctification.

3. Some Abiding Lessons from Paul's Couplets

- A. There is only one gospel message for all people (Mt. 28:18-20; Jn. 3:36).
- B. Growing in the knowledge of Christ ought to bind Christians closer together.
- C. The Christian is continually to strive to be more forgiving and less demanding (cf. Mt. 18:21ff; Phil 2:1-5; Col. 2:13-14)
- D. The Christian is to Find His or Her Primary Identity in Jesus.