



NEW LIFE, NOT CIRCUMCISION

(Galatians 6:11-16)

THE JUDAIZER'S MOTIVES (12-13)

- false teachers were compelling the Galatians to keep OT Law (e.g., circumcision) in order to achieve holiness (*Gal 1:6;3:1*)
- their motives were selfish and worldly...
 - to obtain followers, power and prestige
 - to gain acceptance by other Jews (avoiding persecution that accompanies a profession of faith in Christ only)
- these men were not truly spiritual; they were preoccupied with external religious rites that were of no value to God
- professing to keep the Law, they fell short of it (*Rom 3:23*)

CRUCIFIED MOTIVES (14)

- Paul sought to glorify Christ, not himself (*Php 3:1-7*)...
 - he wanted the Galatians to follow Christ, not him
 - he only boasted of what Christ had done for (in and through) them
- his desire for the trophies of this world was crucified (*Gal 2:20; 1 Jn 2:15*)
- the world had no use for Him, like Christ (*Jn 1:11;15:18-20*)

A NEW RULE TO LIVE BY (15-16)

- whether a man is circumcised or not is unimportant
- what really matters is a new life found only through faith in Christ (*2 Cor 5:17; Col 2:20-3:3*)
- Christians are to be ruled (led) by the Holy Spirit (*Gal 5:16,18; Rom 7:6*) – to do so is to “walk in newness of life” (*Rom 6:4*)
- those that live according to this principle experience the peace and mercy of God, both circumcised and uncircumcised

APPLICATION

1. What underlying motives and desires guide you?
2. Do you pursue acceptance and friendship with those who are not Christians (e.g., at school/work)?
3. Do you like to be part of (or even lead) groups of people that are pursuing a culturally popular cause?
4. Do you fear being ridiculed and isolated if it becomes known that you are a Christian?
5. What do you desire in life more than anything else?
6. What are you pursuing this week (month)?
7. Are you “self-confident”?
8. What rules govern the way you live your life?