

Grace Mail

The boasting that Paul calls believers to is a fitting boast because it is a boast in Christ. We boast in Him because He has changed, transformed, and made us new.

Boast In Christ (part 3) – Galatians 6:15

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”

What is done in the flesh has no bearing on the spiritual reality of those in Christ. We are a new creation. For Paul, as a Pharisaic Jew, to write that circumcision accomplishes nothing is a big deal! “Avails” is the Greek word ἰσχύω (ischyō) meaning *be able; have power. To be a force, to avail.*

Under the Law, it was circumcision, as a sign of the covenant, that had power to identify you as one of God’s chosen people. Paul is saying that under grace circumcision has no power! Circumcision is a work. Works cannot earn God’s favor. Therefore, our works after salvation do not make us more or less acceptable to God. They bear on our fellowship not our relationship. Works done in Christ are done because we are new creations (2 Cor. 5:16-17)! This word “new” reflects the idea of being an original. Something never seen before. That is what the believer in Jesus Christ is! Something entirely new, something never before seen. We are saved by grace through faith!

The flesh is representative of the old things. They have passed away. As new creations in Jesus Christ we are to live transformed lives. Our lives in Christ ought to be as different from our old lives as death is from life! They are opposites.

Being circumcised or not has no power in Christ. What does have power? Being a new creation. We once were slaves to sin and Satan. Now we are free! *Ephesians 2:10* states that we are created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of good works! Paul’s point about being a new creation is that now we work, not to be pleasing to God, but because we are already pleasing to Him in Christ! The question is no longer, “what can I do to be acceptable to God?” The question has become, “How then should a child of God live?”

This question is partially answered in the verse above. A child of God boasts in the Cross of Christ because it has set us free from the bondage of sin! A child of God boasts in Jesus Christ! A child of God publicly and ostentatiously proclaims satisfied contentment with what Christ has accomplished on our behalf!

We boast in Christ.

So today our challenge is to boast. Not in self-accomplishment, but in the accomplishments of Christ!