

Judging People

- What criteria do people often use to judge or rank other people?
- What criteria might people use to judge or rank people in church?
- What is a Christian way to look at people? That is, what do people look like from the perspective of the Gospel?

**When the Gospel
stops being
the Gospel**
Galatians 2:15-21





Setting

- Division between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews)
 - General issues of race & ethnicity
 - Plus religious practices given by God to mark a separation
 - special days, special foods, circumcision
 - To be accepted by God, Gentiles had to become Jews
 - “Explicit bias” and “implicit bias”

**"A COUGHING PERSON
MAY BE CONTAGIOUS"**

"IMAGINE A PROFESSOR"

Setting

- Division between Jews and Gentiles
- Christianity brought these groups together
 - Peter (Jewish Christian, central leader of Christianity):
God accepts both Jew and Gentile
 - Went to the house of Gentile convert (very controversial)
 - Led the church in being open to Gentile converts

Setting

- Division between Jews and Gentiles
- Christianity brought these groups together
- Churches in Antioch encountered conflict
 - Jewish and Gentile Christians lived as one (including Peter)
 - Until: social pressure from other Jewish Christians
 - Peter ended his fellowship with Gentiles Christians
 - Letter to the Galatians: Paul confronted Peter & others

Galatians 2

1-10: Paul and leaders agree: Gospel is same for all people

11-14:

15-16:

17-18:

19-20:

21:

Galatians 2

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21:

Lord, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.

Psalms 143:1-2

Galatians 2

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11-14: Peter accepted Gentiles, but then he rejected them

15-16: Being right with God is not by “works of the law”,
but by faith in Christ → for both Jews and Gentiles

17-18:

19-20:

21:

- “Works of the Law” NO ONE IS EVER GOOD ENOUGH
EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST
 - Doing what you know is right
 - Including
 - Religious actions, like praying and going to church
 - Moral actions, like being honest and thinking only pure thoughts
- “Faith in Christ” WHY JESUS LIVED AND DIED
 - Depending upon and submitting to His goodness
(***always did what was right, AND sacrificed Himself to rescue us***) to make us right with God

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17-18: Going back to the old way (that divides people) means
I am going against the Gospel

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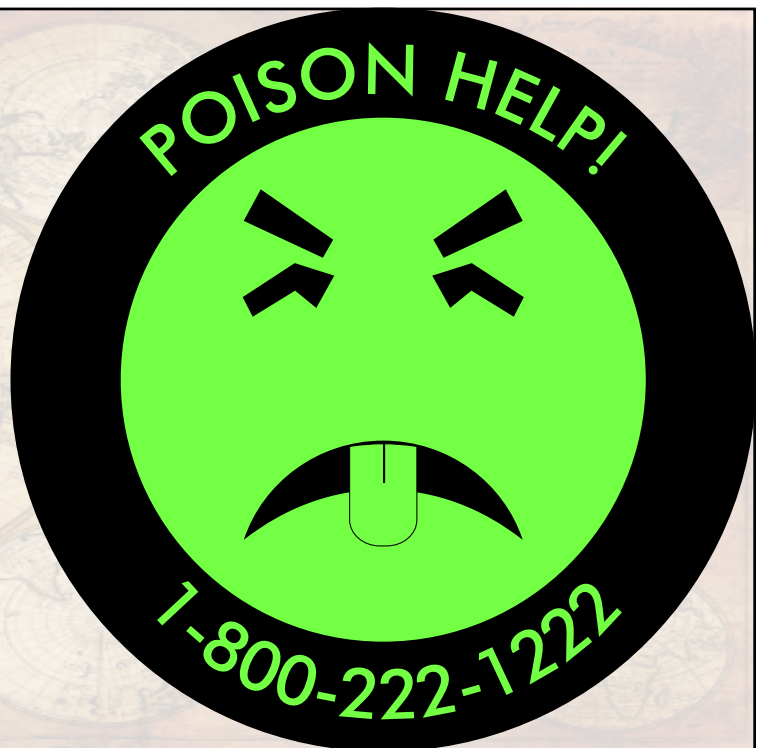
19-20: We are freed from the law. Now alive in and to Christ

21: Gospel: Grace of God is through faith in Christ,
never through being good enough

Theology matters!

Practice matter!

If poison didn't taste
good, it wouldn't be a
problem



Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

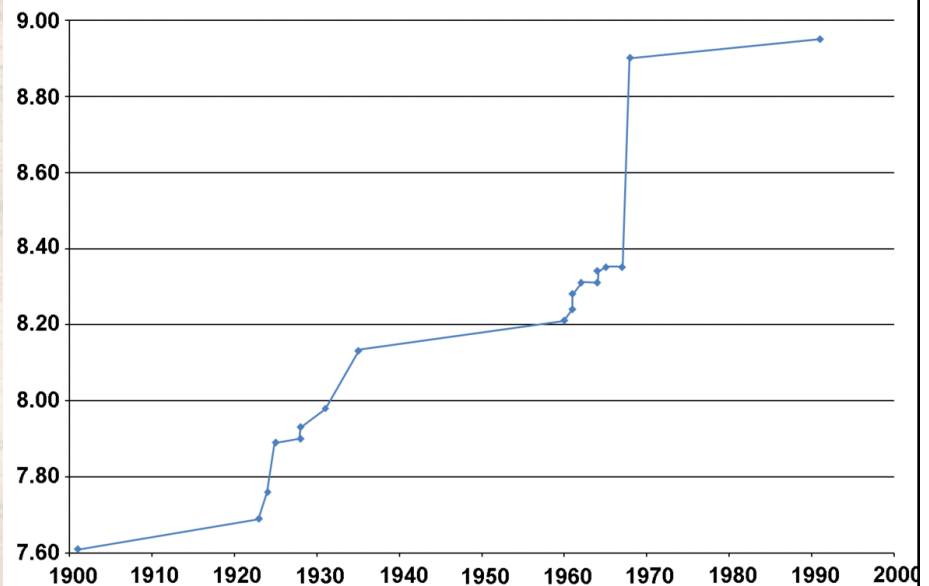
The Big Idea

Being welcomed in the love of God's family
is **only** through faith in Christ,
and **never** through doing enough
of the right things
well enough



Amazing Long Jumper

- Bob Beamon
- 8.9 m (29' 2.5")
- 1968
- Longer by .55m
- Still the Olympic record
- He really flew!
- Was he a bird?



Amazing Human Beings

- Some people are **amazingly good** people!
 - Generous, kind, always do what is right, never angry, ...
- Some people **pray a lot**
- Some people **know the Bible incredibly well**
- Some people **have a lot of joy, all the time!**
- Yet none of these things **makes someone** a child of God
- How do you become a member of a family?
 - Born & adopted
 - Not even amazingly good people are God's children any other way***

Yet to all who did **receive him**, to those who **believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God**.

John 1:12-13

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for **adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will

Ephesians 1:4-5

Application

Gospel: We are welcomed in God's love **only through faith in Christ**, through His death and resurrection

- **NOT** through being good enough, or praying enough, or being baptized, or being smart enough, or anything else
- It is only by grace (God's kind gift in Christ) through faith
- Which we receive by a "head, heart, & hands belief"

– "Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again"

Head

– "Jesus, save me!"

Heart

– Jesus said, "Follow me!" so we do

Hands

WE BELIEVE INTO JESUS

Application

Gospel: We are welcomed in God's love **only through faith in Christ**, through His death and resurrection

SELF

View other people in and through the Gospel

- We are to welcome people as loved brothers and sisters in Christ **only in the Gospel**
 - Never: racism, sexism, “classism”, elitism, ...
 - Never: judgment on ability, intelligence, culture, appearance, socio-economic status, ...
 - Being quick to understand and quick to forgive

The Big Idea

BY GOD

BY GOD'S PEOPLE

Being welcomed in the love of God's family

is **only** through faith in Christ,

and **never** through doing enough
of the right things
well enough

GOD DOES THIS PERFECTLY

WE HAVE A LOT OF LEARNING TO DO!

→ **BE IN THE GOSPEL (FAITH IN CHRIST)**

→ **SEE SELF AND OTHERS THROUGH THE GOSPEL**