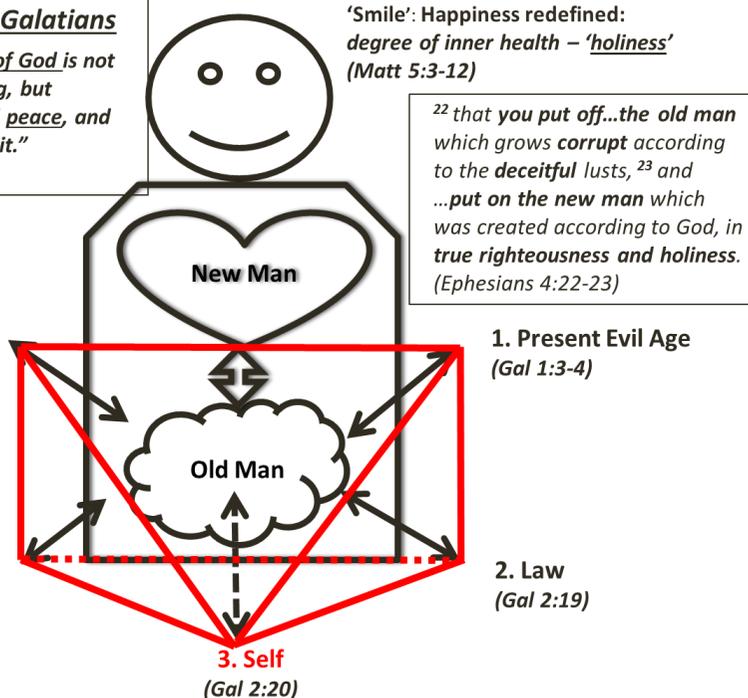


## The Cross In Us 5: Delivered from Self (Gal 2:20, 4:19)

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in (of) the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

### 5 Deliverances Galatians

"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rom 14:17)



1. Galatians deals with five deliverances for fullness of life in the Spirit! The order we took: 1-6 (present age-world); 2-4 (law-flesh); then 3 (self) – ‘chiastic structure.’

- Present evil age & world [external]:** When we are born again we carry much value systems of this world (e.g. materialism, individualism, consumerism) with us. ‘Repentance’ deals with some, but not all. How do you measure success? Hence, we must renew our mind continually for spiritual growth. (Gal 6:14)
- Law & Flesh [internal conflict of two natures]:** After the new birth ‘honeymoon period’ (~1 year?), we become aware of the works of the ‘flesh’ – still there! [i.e. sexual sins; sorcery; division; indulgence, Gal 5:19-21]. Most respond to control flesh by applying ‘law’ harder & end up discouraged (Rom 7:8-11; Gal 5:16-18)
- Self** is at the centre! Imagine self seated on ‘highest point’ of pyramid structure of the ‘old man’ linking from 1-4 each quadrant. ‘Christ’ seated in the ‘new man’.

2. Deliverance from ‘Self’ - Defn. of ‘Self’ – ‘~ego’ (or ‘me’ at the centre); in terms of attitude ‘self-centredness’ (‘selfish’). i.e. ‘me’ on the driver’s seat with a steering wheel saying, “No one tells me what to do.” E.g. ‘I did it my way’ by Frank Sinatra.

- Modern psychology:** ‘stronger the ego, the better, more likely to succeed in life.’ The Scripture: ‘ego comes in all shapes & sizes (of small - large planet), but it must be laid

at the feet of Jesus – i.e. the only way for Christ’s life to work in us!

- Imaginary conversation with ‘SELF’:** “Why do you exist? To be happy. How? By becoming great. Great at \_\_\_\_\_. Then what? I will be admired (loved) by everybody, and be rich (independent). This will make me very happy. Jesus, can you help me to be happy?” JESUS: “Yes, I came to give you abundant life, and you have no idea how much I love you & care for you. However, My life is not found in this way.” SELF: “Why? But this is the only way I want to be happy.” JESUS: “You will need deliverance from self.” SELF: “What? No way! Bad Jesus. Good bye.”
- Paul’s one main concern in Galatians is preserving the ‘purity of the gospel’. Paul deals with all 5 issues (incl. ‘SELF’). If our version of gospel serves ‘self’ we end up with a ‘distorted gospel.’ (prosperity gospel, legalism, sloppy-agape gospel, etc.) “It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in Me...” (Gal 2:20). “My little children for whom I am in labour in birth pain until Christ is formed in you.” (Gal 4:19)
- Making myself happy is not the No. 1 purpose in Christian life! Happiness = ‘by product of holiness’. (1) To bring ‘pleasure to God’ (Rev 4:11) & ‘glorify Him’; (2) To walk in ‘good works’ preordained by God (Eph 2:10); (3) which will form Christlikeness in us! Those who are trapped to ‘self’ (self-centred) are the most unhappy people: ‘Pray for me, heal me, help me, entertain me, make me feel important, etc.’ Self-centred people with problems become the slaves of their problems. The more self-centred they become, the more enslaved to self!
- Jesus requires: (1) Deny yourself; (2) Pick up your cross; (3) Follow Me! How does ‘denying self or dying to self’ work out? By act of ‘self-humbling’ & ‘letting go’.

### 3. Humility of Jesus (Phil 2:5-11) – Total Obedience & Dependence on the Father

What Jesus has done	What the Father has done
1. Consider it robbery to be equal with God	1. <u>Therefore</u> , the Father highly exalted Him
2. Made Himself of no reputation	2. Given Him the name above every name
3. Taking the form of a bondservant	3. At Jesus’ name every knee should bow
4. Coming in the likeness of men	4. Of those in heaven to bow
5. Being found in appearance as a man	5. Of those on earth to bow
6. Humbled Himself in obedience to death	6. Of those under the earth to bow
7. Even the death on the cross	7. Every tongue to confess Jesus as the Lord

- Universal law:** ‘The way up is the way down.’ Jesus perfectly demonstrated this!
- It all started with ‘humble mindset’: ‘did not consider equality with God something to be grasped’ (NIV). But devil reached out to grasp equality with God & was ‘thrown down’! The choice is ours. ‘Self-humbling’ or ‘forced humbling’ (=humiliation). Pride is what gives rise to all other problems! (All 5 – core)
- Our mission in life = ‘to become like Christ’: ‘Humble [Christ] ←→ Pride [Devil]’ 1<sup>st</sup> sin in universe was pride. ‘Humility’ is the only self-description of Jesus’ own character! “Why do you call me good?” (Mark 10:18) “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matt 11:28-30). If we truly ask Jesus, He will teach us true freedom of humility! Humility is the ‘only soil’ in which the fruits of the Spirit grow.
- Paul’s spiritual progress: (Gal 2:6; 1 Cor 15:9; Eph 3:8; 1 Tim 1:15).
- How pride manifest itself in human heart: ‘independence.’