

Lecture 15 – Galatians: Indicative versus Imperative & Flow of Thought

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:24-25

“You, my brothers, are called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13

Key Terms

Indicative, imperative, *non posse non peccare*, *posse non peccare*

Objectives

- *Distinguish between the indicative and imperative tenses of verbs.
- *Explain when and why Paul uses indicative tenses of verbs.
- *Explain when and why Paul uses imperative tenses of verbs.
- *Restate the phrases *non posse non peccare* and *posse non peccare*.

Galatians: Indicative versus Imperative & Flow of Thought

I. Paul’s Use of the Indicative and the Imperative

A. Tension between:

1. Living a godly life and...
2. Being in battle against sinful nature

B. Live by grace alone

C. Gal. 5:24-25: indicative

D. Gal. 5:13, 16: imperative

E. *Non posse non peccare* versus *posse non peccare*

Meaning: _____ versus _____

F. *Simul iustus et peccator*

Meaning: _____

G. Focus is on living by the Spirit

H. The struggle to overcome the sinful nature can lead to legalism if we don’t depend on the Spirit.

I. A basic pattern of the Gospel is established in Galatians.

J. Responsibility of leaning on the Spirit: Phil. 1:6

K. But we are not relieved of our responsibility.

L. God’s laws are not _____ but _____.

M. Don’t treat God’s laws as imperatives that we are able to fulfill on our own but as _____.

N. How do we read God’s law?

O. Challenge: How to relate to the tension between the godly life and sinful nature?

P. Phil. 1:6: Summary of Galatians

Q. We begin and end with the _____.

II. The Flow of Thought in Galatians

A. Galatians 2:15-3:14, literary style of _____

B. Paul uses the literary style of contrasts (antitheses) to support his argument that you can not continue to live in both worlds. Gal. 2:15 - 3:14