



Paul's Rule

Galatians 6:16

**And as for all who walk by
this rule, peace and mercy
be upon them, and upon
the Israel of God.**



Galatians 6:16

• And as for **all who**
walk by this rule,

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. to proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, go in order
 - A. metaph. to go on prosperously, to turn out well
- II. to walk
 - A. to direct one's life, to live

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

στοιχέω stoichéō, stoy-kheh'-o; from a derivative of στείχω steíchō (to range in regular line); to march in (military) rank (keep step), i.e. (figuratively) to conform to virtue and piety:—walk (orderly).



Galatians 6:16

- And as for **all who walk by**
this rule,



**Why should we
care about this
rule?**



Look Back To

Galatians 1:8-9



Galatians 1:8–9

- But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.**



In the beginning of Paul's letter he pronounces a curse—let them be accursed, upon all who preach another gospel.

This is an apostolic curse. In Mt 16:19 Jesus gives the apostles the authority to do this.



Galatians 6:16 (another translation)

- Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.



We read '**peace and mercy**' and
we just plow through the text

But Paul can think of nothing we
need more than peace and mercy



Romans 5:1

- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Luke 18:13–14

- But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”



What rule is Paul
referring to?

Where should we look
for this rule?



Galatians 6:16

- **And** as for **all who walk by this rule,**

**And tells us to look back
at v. 15**



Galatians 6:15

- For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

This is the rule.

The rule is: Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that matters is are you a new creation in Christ Jesus.



**This is a theological
rule.**

Soteriological



The word circumcision here has a dualistic meaning which further strengthens Paul's point.

Circumcision refers to the mutilation of the flesh and/or it refers to being a Jew—a child of Abraham. Both fit the rule well.



Turn Back to

John 8:12-44

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, **"You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."** ¹⁴ Jesus answered, **"Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."** ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, **"Where is your Father?"** Jesus answered, **"You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."** ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. ²¹ So he said to them again, **"I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."** ²² So the Jews said, **"Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"** ²³ He said to them, **"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."**

²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” ²⁵ So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” ²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”



Look Back @

Chapter 5



Paul has used this

Neither circumcision nor
uncircumcision
phase previously

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that **if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.** ³ I testify again to every man **who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.** ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness....v. 6



Galatians 5:6

- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love.**

‘Only faith working through love’ is destroying the Jewishness of being Jew.

Being circumcised on the 8th day and keeping the law of Moses were the distinctive things that set Israel apart from the Gentiles! Paul is destroying that.

**Do Baptists have things
that set them apart and
could be thought to add
to our salvation?**



“Faith” in What?

Look back at v. 14



Galatians 6:14

- But far be it from me to boast except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.



**What does it
mean to boast
in the cross?**



Philippians 3

Is going to help us with
faith in what & boast in
the cross

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and **glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—** ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Vs. 2 is layered and layered with truth

**Paul calls the Jews who call Gentiles dogs
'dogs'**

**And then Paul identifies Christians as the
true circumcision who worship...**



Philippians 3:2

- Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, **look out for those who mutilate the flesh.**



Those who mutilate the flesh is any religious person or entity who adds to faith in the gospel.

Baptism, confirmation, sacraments, 144,000, rule-keeping, etc.



Philippians 3:3

- For we are the **circumcision**, who worship by the Spirit of God **and glory in Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh—

Boast/glory in [the cross of] Christ

- **He gets our worship & adoration**
- **Our trust is in His work on the cross**
- **We love Him & our loyalty is to Him alone**
- **When we talk of eternal security we speak about His work and not our work**



Philippians 3:4–6

- though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.



Listen to Paul Boast

v. 7-8



Philippians 3:7–8

- But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Let's work hard at linking all this together

- **Gal 5 only faith working through love**
- **Gal 6 all that matters is are you a new creation**

**Phil 3:9 shows us what new
creations in Christ have their faith in**



Philippians 3:9

- and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, **but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—**



Philippians 3:10–11

- that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death,** ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



Let's Connect This Back to Gal 6:14

Paul's death to the World



Galatians 6:14

- But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.



What is the rule?

And why do we care?

The rule is: Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts for anything is are you a new creation in Christ Jesus. Galatians 6:15

New creation is important language.

**And it fits nicely with Jesus telling
Nicodemus you must be born again.**

New creations are disciples of Christ.



2 Corinthians 5:17

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.**
- The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- New covenant
- New world
- New tongues
- New creation
- New lump
- New man (new self)
- New and living way
- New heavens and new earth
- New name
- New Jerusalem (new song)

**Am I a
new
creation
in
Christ?**



How do I know if I am a New Creation?



#1 I trust (faith) in Christ Jesus's death, burial and resurrection for my salvation; I believe Jesus is the eternal son of God who died for my sins. I trust in

- a. His righteousness and not my own.**
- b. His payment for sin and not my own.**
- c. His perfect obedience to the law and not my striving to obey God and do His will.**



#2 My faith in Christ is NOT dead. It is alive working through love.

- a. My love for God is genuine.**
- b. My love for others is growing and the Holy Spirit crushes me when I am made aware of my prejudices, animosities, and dislike/hatred for humanity.**
- c. There is evidence of my love for others.**



#3 My death w/ Christ to the world and the flesh is legitimate.

- a. We die to self.
- b. We die to this world.
- c. This world is dead to us.
- d. I am no longer a slave to sin.



#4 The Holy Spirit of God lives in me.

- a. I have been sealed with the Spirit.
- b. I walk with the Spirit and strive to be led by the Spirit.
- c. My life manifests fruit of the Spirit.