
BIBLE STUDY

The Apostle Paul to the Galatians

Galatians 2:20

United with Christ and sustained by
faith

Personalized by: Ruperto Bravo Benavente
(R.B.B.)

Reina-Valera 1960
Francisco Lacueva

The Apostle Paul to the Galatians

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 · Editorial translation of RVR1960

Purpose and approach

Galatians 2:20 describes the believer's life through union with Jesus Christ. Acceptance before God rests on the Savior's work; present life is sustained by faith and responds to His love. This study explains that confession without turning it into a demand for immediate perfection or an excuse for moral indifference.

Direct and complementary passages are distinguished. Direct passages belong to Paul's immediate argument or explicitly express union with Christ's death and life. Complementary passages develop its consequences, hope, and promises. The verse is a personal and doctrinal confession, rather than the description of a second physical crucifixion.

The selection brings together the principal biblical foundations and relevant connections. It does not claim to exhaust every possible allusion. References should be read within their paragraph and book. Biblical passage identifies the text; textual explanation describes its contextual meaning; doctrinal connection relates it to other teaching; application proposes a concrete response.

The English and Portuguese editions contain editorial translations of the base text and exposition. They are not official editions of Reina-Valera. No unverified wording or commentary is reproduced or attributed to Francisco Lacueva.

Central passage and immediate context

Central reading: Galatians 2:15–21. Narrative setting: Galatians 2:1–14. Paul defends the freedom of Gentile believers and confronts behavior that introduced separation within the community. Sharing a table had implications for the truth of the gospel: a religious distinction must not become an additional requirement for acceptance.

Verse 16 establishes the basis of justification; verses 17–18 reject the idea that Christ promotes sin; verse 19 speaks of dying to the law in order to live for God; verse 20 describes the new life; verse 21 defends the necessity of Christ's death. The confession belongs to an argument about grace.

This context does not authorize contempt for the Jewish people or describe the law as evil. The issue is its proposed role as a means of justification. Romans 7:12 affirms the law's goodness; Galatians 3:19–25 explains its role in relation to the promise and the coming of faith.

Paul's first-person confession teaches a reality that concerns believers. The church receives his words as instruction and testimony, without assuming his apostolic office or turning every detail of his experience into an identical promise for every individual.

Direct passages that establish the theme

Galatians 2:15–16: faith in Jesus Christ and justification. This is the immediate argumentative foundation; works of the law do not establish a sinner's righteousness before God.

Galatians 2:17–18: Christ does not serve sin. Seeking justification in Him does not legitimize transgression or rebuilding the system that has been set aside.

Galatians 2:19–21: dying to the law, living for God, and honoring grace. These verses contain the main text and its immediate conclusion.

Romans 6:3–11: union with Christ's death and resurrection. This direct doctrinal parallel explains the crucified old self and the new life.

Colossians 2:11–14 and 3:1–4: death, burial, resurrection, and life with Christ. These passages connect His work, forgiveness, and a new direction for life.

2 Corinthians 5:14–17: the death of One for all leads to living for Him and to new creation. Christ's self-giving determines the believer's identity and purpose.

Galatians 5:24–25 and 6:14–15: belonging to Christ, living by the Spirit, and boasting in the cross. These developments within the same letter do not describe an additional atoning work performed by believers.

Complementary passages on grace and identity

Romans 3:21–28 and 4:1–8: God’s righteousness, faith, and forgiveness. These distinguish justification from a reward for religious performance.

Romans 5:1–11: peace with God and love revealed in Christ. His death supports confidence even when believers remember their former condition as sinners.

Ephesians 2:1–10 and Titus 3:3–7: salvation by grace, renewal, and good works. Works are the fruit and calling of salvation, rather than its purchase price.

Philippians 3:4–11: Paul gives up confidence in his credentials to find righteousness in Christ. This clarifies the changed foundation expressed in Galatians 2:20.

1 Corinthians 1:30–31 and 6:19–20: Christ is the source of righteousness, and believers belong to God. This belonging gives bodily life value and responsibility.

John 15:1–5 and Ephesians 3:14–19: abiding in Christ and knowing His love. These complement dependence and inward life while preserving the distinction between the Lord and the believer.

Complementary passages on life and hope

Romans 8:1–17: freedom from condemnation in Christ, life by the Spirit, and adoption. His presence sustains new life and a filial relationship with God.

Galatians 5:13–26: freedom, loving service, conflict with the flesh, and the Spirit's fruit. Christian freedom has a real ethical expression.

Philippians 2:12–13; Colossians 3:5–17; Ephesians 4:20–32: God works in believers and calls them to act responsibly. Dependence on grace includes concrete choices and habits.

1 John 1:5–2:2 and Hebrews 4:14–16: acknowledging sin, Christ's advocacy, and access to the throne of grace. These guide pastoral care after failure.

John 5:24; 10:27–30; Ephesians 1:13–14; Romans 8:31–39: eternal life, the Shepherd's care, the Spirit's seal, and God's love. Assurance rests in the Savior, rather than self-sufficiency.

Romans 8:18–25; Philippians 3:20–21; Colossians 3:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, 42–58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18: resurrection, transformation, and future fellowship with Christ. These enlarge our hope; Galatians 2:20 alone does not establish the chronology of final events.

Exposition of the verse

Crucified with Christ

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:19–20; Romans 6:6

Textual explanation. Paul recognizes his union with Christ's death. He does not claim to have physically undergone Jesus' crucifixion. The cross determines his new relationship with God and ends the attempt to establish righteousness through works of the law. His former identity can no longer govern life as before.

Doctrinal connection. Romans 6 places this union within the transition to new life. The crucifixion of the old self does not mean temptation disappears: the instructions in 6:12–13 still require a conscious response. Christ’s death is unique and sufficient; believers receive its benefits and add no atonement of their own.

Application. Examine where I place my acceptance before God: in Christ, or in my achievements, reputation, and discipline. Obedience can grow from gratitude without becoming an invoice presented to claim God’s favor.

I no longer live

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:15–17

Textual explanation. This phrase expresses a changed center and belonging. Paul retains his personality, conscience, and ability to decide. The verse itself acknowledges that he continues to live. His self is no longer the ultimate foundation of existence or acceptance before God.

Doctrinal connection. New creation and living for Christ explain this confession. It does not teach psychological erasure, contempt for the body, or fusion with deity. Personal identity is redirected through union with the Savior. Humility involves using received gifts under His lordship, rather than denying their existence.

Application. When making a decision, consider whether I am merely protecting my pride or can act with truth and love. Acknowledging an error, asking forgiveness, and repairing harm are responsible responses, rather than signs of losing my personality.

Christ lives in me

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:9–11; Ephesians 3:16–17

Textual explanation. Christian life comes from the presence of the risen Lord. Paul describes a real relationship that transforms his existence. The verse does not explain every aspect of this presence; other passages relate it to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Doctrinal connection. Divine indwelling does not turn believers into Christ or make their thoughts infallible. The distinction between the Savior and those who receive His life remains. John 15 describes fruitful dependence: disciples need to abide in the Lord, and fruit expresses that relationship.

Application. Listen to Scripture, pray, and receive correction. Saying Christ lives in me should lead to humility and discernment, never to treating a personal decision as though it were automatically God's command.

The life I now live in the flesh

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Textual explanation. In this clause, flesh refers to present bodily human existence. The context does not say that Paul lives surrendered to sin. A word can serve different functions: in Galatians 5, flesh stands opposed to the Spirit and describes desires that must be resisted.

Doctrinal connection. Redemption concerns the whole person. The body has value, and ordinary life offers opportunities for service. Future resurrection confirms that Christian hope does not despise creation or erase material responsibility.

Application. Care for rest, practice honesty at work, and attend to those who depend on me. Illness, exhaustion, or financial difficulty do not by themselves show that Christ is absent. Support, prudence, and perseverance may be needed.

I live by faith in the Son of God

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:16, 20; Philippians 3:9

Textual explanation. This exposition follows the contextual emphasis on believing in Jesus Christ: Paul lives in trust in the Son of God. Faith receives grace and accompanies daily existence. It is neither a technique for controlling events nor an emotion that must remain constantly intense.

Doctrinal connection. The wording rendered faith of the Son of God in RVR1960 has prompted interpretive discussion, including faith in Christ and an emphasis on His faithfulness. This study does not settle that discussion through an invented Greek definition or attribute a conclusion to Lacueva. The believer's trust and the Savior's faithfulness are biblical affirmations; their relationship does not make faith a merit.

Application. Trust when answers take time, and obey what I already understand from Scripture. Asking for help and acknowledging doubts can belong to sincere faith. Mature trust rests in Christ rather than a demand for uninterrupted emotional certainty.

He loved me and gave Himself for me

Biblical passage. Galatians 2:20; 1:4; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 5:2

Textual explanation. Christ's love has a historical expression: His self-giving. The first person allows Paul to receive that love personally without claiming that the sacrifice was limited to him. For me expresses the personal benefit of the Savior's work and deepens gratitude.

Doctrinal connection. The cross reveals love and treats sin seriously. Salvation is not purchased by human affection or later sacrifices. Christ's death and resurrection stand at the heart of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1–4. Received love moves believers to live for Him.

Application. Approach God honestly without concealing guilt or punishing myself as though I could complete Christ's work. After a failure, confess it, repair what can be repaired, and receive correction that helps me walk in truth.

Justification sanctification and hope

Justification describes a sinner's acceptance before God through faith in Christ. Sanctification describes the transformation of life and conduct. Hope looks toward redemption's future fullness. These are related but distinct: moral growth does not replace Christ's work as the basis of acceptance.

Ephesians 2:8–10 preserves that order. Grace saves, and received life expresses itself in good works. Philippians 2:12–13 joins God's action and human responsibility. Confidence that uses grace to conceal harm must be challenged; a wounded conscience needs to return to the Savior and receive support.

Romans 8 and the promises of resurrection sustain perseverance. Christian assurance rests in God and produces humble confidence. This study does not use Galatians 2:20 as an isolated

proof that settles every controversy about perseverance; promises and warnings must be heard within the whole of Scripture.

Frequently asked questions

If I no longer live, should I stop making decisions? No. Paul continues to act responsibly. Dependence on Christ redirects the will rather than replacing it with passivity. Philippians 2:12–13 holds divine action and human response together.

If Christ lives in me, why do I still struggle with sin? Galatians 5:16–17 acknowledges the conflict. The Spirit's presence does not remove the need for vigilance. Failure calls for confession and correction; destructive habits may require pastoral help and concrete steps.

Does grace allow life without obedience? Romans 6:1–2 and Galatians 5:13 reject that use of freedom. Good works do not purchase salvation, but received love directs a life of service and truth.

Does dying to the law mean the law is evil? No. Romans 7:12 affirms its goodness. The point is that it does not justify sinners. Its role in biblical history and fulfillment in Christ must guide its reading.

Must I always feel Christ's presence? The verse affirms a relationship sustained by faith rather than a permanent sensation. Pain and exhaustion do not in themselves invalidate that relationship. Community, prayer, and Scripture support perseverance.

Does for me limit Christ's death to Paul? No. This personal reception agrees with passages about His self-giving for others. Nor does it require believers to reproduce the crucifixion physically.

Does this verse promise constant health or prosperity? No. It describes present existence lived by faith. Hope includes future redemption; it does not guarantee freedom from suffering now.

Pastoral application in daily life

Begin the day by remembering that acceptance before God is received in Christ. Read the passage in context and ask for guidance in a concrete responsibility. Prayer may be simple: Lord, teach me to trust You and respond truthfully to the love I have received.

In conflict, describe the facts honestly, acknowledge personal responsibility, and seek possible repair. Forgiveness does not require denying harm or abandoning prudent boundaries. Christ's presence should guide conduct that protects vulnerable people and practices justice.

When facing guilt, distinguish conviction leading to repentance from accusation that traps a person in despair. First John 1:9 and 2:1-2 direct attention to Christ. Pastoral support can help turn acknowledgment of wrongdoing into a concrete path of restoration.

At day's end, give thanks for one expression of grace, acknowledge a decision needing correction, and entrust unresolved matters to the Lord. This practice supports reading and prayer; it is not an additional condition for God's acceptance.

Conclusion

Galatians 2:20 describes a life whose identity is understood through the cross and whose continuation is sustained by faith. Paul recognizes that he belongs to Christ and that Christ's love reached him through real self-giving. The confession preserves human responsibility and removes self-sufficiency as life's foundation.

Believers can approach the Lord with confidence, learn obedience, and persevere within their limitations.

Transformation is the fruit of received grace. Hope looks to the day when fellowship with Christ and bodily redemption reach their fullness.

Study questions

1. What problem in Galatians 2:11–14 helps explain verse 20?
2. What does 2:16 say about the basis of justification?
3. How are 2:19, 2:20, and 2:21 connected?
4. How does union with Christ's death differ from physical crucifixion?
5. Why does I no longer live not mean losing one's personality?
6. How do Romans 8:9–11 and John 15:1–5 explain Christ's life in believers?
7. What does flesh mean in Galatians 2:20, and how does its function change in 5:16–17?
8. How does trusting Christ differ from using faith as a technique of control?
9. How are Christ's love and self-giving connected?
10. What distinguishes justification, sanctification, and hope?
11. What pastoral response is appropriate after failure?

12. What concrete decision this week could express gratitude, truth, and dependence on the Lord?

For a group meeting: first read Galatians 2:15–21; describe the paragraph's teaching; compare direct passages; examine an objection; close in prayer. Avoid turning questions into an assessment of people's spiritual worth.

References and editorial approach

Reina-Valera 1960 Bible. Spanish base text. Complementary passages are identified by reference and summary; readers are encouraged to read them in full and in context. The requester supplied the complete quotation of Galatians 2:20.

Francisco Lacueva, Nuevo Testamento Interlineal Griego-Español. Bibliographic reference requested for consultation. Its page on Galatians 2:20 has not been directly verified; no wording, grammatical analysis, or specific conclusions are therefore attributed to it.

Biblical text checked against YouVersion, Reina-Valera 1960: Galatians 2, Romans 6, Galatians 5, and Ephesians 2. Links:
bible.com/es/bible/149/GAL.2.RVR1960;
bible.com/es/bible/149/ROM.6.RVR1960;
bible.com/es/bible/149/GAL.5.RVR1960;
bible.com/es/bible/149/EPH.2.RVR1960.

Illustrations are teaching representations rather than documentary reconstructions. The professional profile is based on the compiler's supplied file; its statements are presented as supplied information, rather than independent academic or doctrinal credentials.

Illustrated appendix

Galatians 2:20 in eight scenes · Teaching summary

GALATIANS 2:20

CHRIST LIVES IN ME

1

THE CONTEXT: GRACE



God justifies us through faith in Jesus Christ, not through works of the law.

Galatians 2:16.

2

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST



United with Christ, I abandon trust in my own merits.

Romans 6:6.

3

NO LONGER I



My life has a new center: I belong to Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:15.

4

CHRIST LIVES IN ME



His presence transforms my character and guides my decisions.

Romans 8:9-11.

5

MY PRESENT LIFE



In my responsibilities and difficulties, I depend on the Lord.

6

I LIVE BY FAITH



I trust the Son of God and obey His Word each day.

7

HE LOVED ME



His love reaches me before my achievements and sustains my hope.

Romans 5:8.

8

HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME



The cross reveals His love and inspires my gratitude.

Galatians 1:4.

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 · Editorial translation of RVR1960



Personalized by: Ruperto Bravo Benavente

Bibliographic reference: Reina-Valera 1960 · Nuevo Testamento Interlineal Griego-Español, Francisco Lacueva.

Illustrative scenes: explanations summarize the biblical text.



16

Compiler's professional profile



RUPERTO BRAVO BENAVENTE (R.B.B.)

Senior project developer and process engineering expert with more than 40 years of experience in the technical and financial structuring of industrial, agrifood, and critical infrastructure complexes.

Specialist in modernizing investment models and implementing advanced technologies (extrusion, cryogenics, HIMSS 7), with a focus on economic feasibility under international standards of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris (ICC).

Compiler and editor of biblical and educational study materials.
Resident of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For this work, he serves as initiator, compiler, and person responsible for editorial presentation. The doctrinal content is based on the biblical references cited and should be examined in light of Holy Scripture.

Editorial note: only professional background relevant to public publication has been included. Sensitive personal data, identity documents, addresses, and other private information are omitted.