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## Finding Freedom: A Study In Galatians

### "Dealing With Diversity"

Galatians 2:1-10

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Introduction: As we continue to work through Galatians, we come to a critical issue.

1. As the gospel spread & Gentiles began to believe, the church was becoming more diverse.
2. This reality presented new challenges that did not exist when the church was in it's infancy.
3. If you remember, the church was born in Jerusalem shortly after Christ's ascension.
4. Before He left, He instructed His followers to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria & the uttermost parts of the earth.
5. Until the persecution spearheaded by Paul in Acts 8, the church was stuck in Jerusalem/Judea.
6. With that persecution, the church was scattered with the result that Samaria & the Gentile world began to turn to Christ.
7. All of a sudden, the church became diverse.
8. Obviously, this was God's intent. He understood the importance & benefit of diversity.
9. However, this diversity presented challenges, challenges that still exist today.
10. In our text today we'll learn a few lessons on dealing with diversity.

#### I. Background Information

- A. Paul's Spiritual Journey
- B. An Evolving Church

#### II. Practical Principles

- A. Respect
- B. Privacy
- C. Courage
- D. Inclusion
- E. Unity

Conclusion: This story doesn't end here.

1. Paul continues it throughout chapter 2. However, in the remaining verses his focus is more theological in nature.
2. Right now, we're focused on practical lessons that can & will help us as we deal with diversity.
3. Our world, the church, our families, our schools & our communities would be a better place if we applied what we've learned today.
4. Treating others with respect, confronting difficult issues in private, refusing to bow to illegitimate pressures, valuing the contribution of others & maintaining unity make us stronger & better.
5. There we can be the people & church God designed us to be.
6. So, do not fear diversity, embrace it. Because together we will accomplish more than we can when we are divided.