

#7 Religious Identity

Romans 3:1-9 (NIV)

- Is God unfaithful to the Jews? → May it never be!
More on that later in chaps 9-11
- Does the Gospel of GRACE promote sin? → May it never be!
More in chaps 5-9

TWO OBJECTIONS:

1st Objection – What's the advantage of **BEING A JEW** or following the God-given action of **CIRCUMCISION**?

Confusion about RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

Romans 3:1-4 *What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?² Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? ⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written, "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."*

2nd Objection – What about **SIN**?

Confusion about GRACE

Romans 3:5-8 *But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) ⁶ Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? ⁷ Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" ⁸ Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!*

Galatians 3:23-29 (NIV) *Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*

²⁶ *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 10:13 (ESV) *For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*