



WE ARE FREE!

**SET FREE
BY GRACE**

Galatians 1:1-10



1

JESUS HAS
SET US FREE



Free from sin, condemnation, and death
(Romans 8:1-2)

Free to be reconciled with God
(Romans 5:10-11)

Free from the enemy's schemes
(Ephesians 6:10-17)

2

JESUS HAS
SET US FREE

BY GRACE





God's grace...

Draws us to salvation
(John 12:32; 16:8)

Declares us righteous
(Romans 3:22-24)

TESTIMONY



When Jesus Calls a Gang Leader by Name

How a mysterious prison “movie” drove me to my knees.

By Casey Diaz

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FRAGAPANE

In prison, I was a shot caller.

Shot callers have an elevated rank in the gang world. They are the power-brokers who determine who gets hurt (or killed) and who doesn't. They command respect.

I started down this path as a teenager in South-Central Los Angeles, as a leader in the Rockwood Street Locos. I led the way when we invaded homes, broke into cars, ransacked convenience stores, and stabbed rival gang members. It didn't take me long to figure out that the streets were bloody. Most of the time, it was kill or be killed.

Eventually, the LAPD caught up with me. I was sentenced to nearly 13 years for second-degree murder—along with 52 counts of armed robbery. I actually breathed a sigh of relief that those were the only charges the cops could pin on me.

LIFE WAS VERY CHEAP

While awaiting transfer to New Folsom State Prison—a Level IV maximum security prison near Sacramento, California—I was housed with 120 murderers and violent criminals inside Pitchess Detention Center, north of Los Angeles.

At Pitchess, we segregated ourselves: blacks aligning with blacks, whites with whites, and Latinos with Latinos. Several dudes from two long-established gangs, 18th Street and Florencia 13, approached me about becoming a shot caller there.

One of my responsibilities was the control and distribution of shanks, the crude homemade knives used for stabbing another prisoner. I slept with all 13 of them under my mattress. When a riot went off, I made sure the right people got shanks. There were many violent upheavals at Pitchess, and inmates got stabbed and killed all the

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Source: Christianity Today

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ALONE



What was the problem?

PAUL

Salvation by grace
through faith in
Jesus alone

**JUDAIZERS
(JEWISH CHRISTIANS)**

Salvation through
faith in Jesus

+

Circumcision (*Galatians 5:2-4*)
Mosaic Law (*Galatians 3:1-6*)

Also see Acts 15

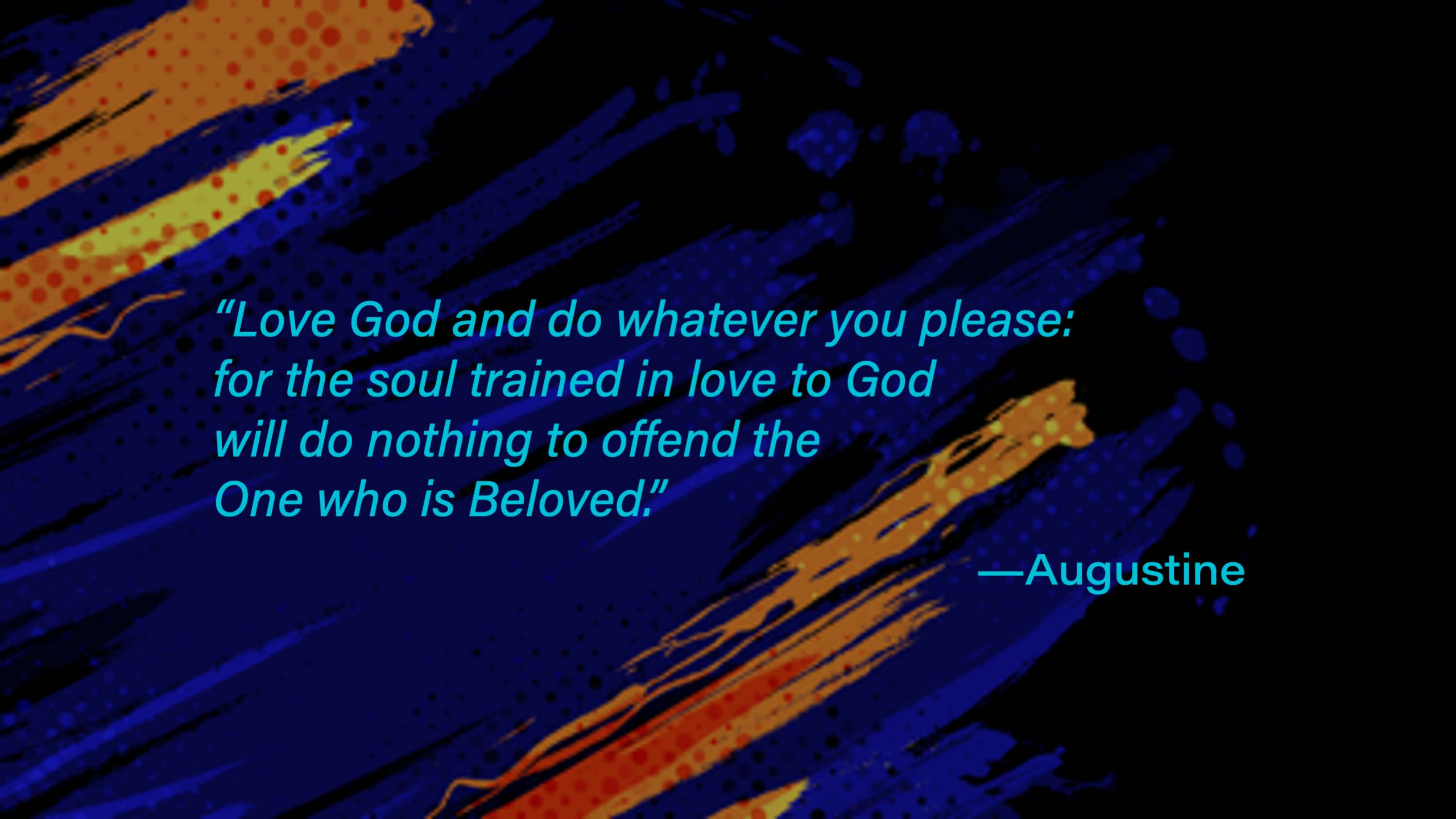


What was the problem?

Distorted gospel undermines grace

Distorted gospel confuses believers

Distorted gospel divides the church



*“Love God and do whatever you please:
for the soul trained in love to God
will do nothing to offend the
One who is Beloved.”*

—Augustine