

Style in Scripture

Galatians 5:4

κατηργήθητε ἀπὸ Χριστοῦ , οἵτινες ἐν νόμῳ δικαιοῦσθε ; τῆς χάριτος ἐξεπέσατε .
You are severed from Christ whoever in [the] Law are being justified from grace you have fallen away
V-AIP-2P Prep N-GMS RelPro-NMP Prep N-DMS V-PIM/P-2P Art-GFS N-GFS V-AIA-2P

<https://biblehub.com/interlinear/galatians/5-4.htm>

Chiasm

The beauty and power of Scripture are not only in the content but also often in the form or style.

Chiasm is a fascinating literary feature that is seldom used in English but is employed frequently by biblical authors, especially in the Old Testament. In a chiasm a list of items, ideas, or events is structured in such a manner that the first item parallels the last item, the second item parallels the next to last item, and so forth.¹

Chiasm, from the Greek letter chi, **Χ**

You are severed from Christ
Whoever in the Law are being justified
From grace you have fallen

Translations <https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Galatians%205:4>

“Seldom used in English...” and in very few English translations.

- ESV, RSV** You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.
- CSB** You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace.
- KJV** Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.
- TLB** Christ is useless to you if you are counting on clearing your debt to God by keeping those laws; you are lost from God’s grace.
- MOUNCE** You have cut yourself off from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.
- NASB** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
- NIV** You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
- NLT** For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God’s grace.
- YLT** ye were freed from the Christ, ye who in law are declared righteous; from the grace ye fell away;

¹ J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays, Grasping God’s Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2005), 73.