Based on Galatians 2:15-21.

A **The concept of justification.**
- ❖ **What is justification?**
  - — Paul made it clear: both Jews and Gentiles need to be justified (that is, to be declared just).
  - — What does justification involve?
    - (a) It is the opposite of condemnation. A justified person is both forgiven and declared just (Deuteronomy 25:1).
    - (b) It involves being part of God's people.
    - (c) It's relating to God and His covenant.

B **Means to be justified.**
- ❖ **The works of the law.**
  - — Doing the works of the law demands full fulfillment–both in thoughts and in practice, and every second in life–of all the commandments.
  - — Even if we could do so, the works of the law couldn't save us at all. They are just life rules and not a means to redemption or forgiveness.
- ❖ **The faith of Jesus Christ.**
  - — Faith doesn't need to be complemented by works. Justification is not by faith and works–like the Judaizers taught–but by faith alone.
  - — Faith is not an abstract concept. There's no way to just have faith. You must have faith in something: that is, the work Jesus did for us.
  - — Faith doesn't justify by itself. Faith is the way we cling to Jesus who is able to justify us.
  - — Our hope is "the faith of Jesus Christ." We are saved by His faith and not by ours. There's no merit in our faith.

C **The result of justification.**
- ❖ **The obedience of faith.**
  - — True faith comes from a touched heart that is moved to love and thank God for His goodness.
  - — We have faith after we understand and accept God's great sacrifice to give us eternal life.
  - — Faith is a love response to God's love.
  - — As faith emerges, I don't want to sadden God by intentionally sinning anymore.
- ❖ **Just keep sinning?**
  - — Some people accused Paul of highlighting faith and not works. They thought he encouraged the Gentiles to keep sinning after having been justified.
  - — Paul understood that we are new creatures after being justified. Now Christ lives in us and we do the works He prepared forehand that we should walk in them (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10).