

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

November 17, 2019

“GALATIANS 6:11-18”

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, did you hear something for the first time that stuck with you? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is one thing from Sunday's message you are likely to remember and tell your friends about later?

MY STORY

1. Paul talks about the importance of being “a new creation.” Talk about your own experience with the knowledge that you are a new creation. What changed in your life? Did you feel any different after you received the Holy Spirit?
2. How has this series developed your understanding of the gospel? What have you come to appreciate about Galatians that you never thought about before?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ GALATIANS 5:5-18

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. **12** It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. **13** For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. **14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. **16** And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. **17** From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

1. What do verses 6:12-13 reveal about the motives of Paul's opponents? How does Paul use this to contrast the true gospel from “religion”?

Paul's opponents are the Judaizers, who are seeking to have Christians circumcised and thus work under the Jewish law. True religion on the other hand work through peace and mercy, boasting only in the cross of Christ. True religion in another passage talks about caring for the orphan and widow in their distress, so it's an outpouring of our love for one another.

2. Would you agree that verses 6:14-15 summarize everything Paul has been saying in the letter? Why or why not?

Allow the conversation to flow about the entirety of the book of Galatians, what have people been learning, however the crux of the passage is here, only a new creation counts for anything. And that new creation is not attained by any working of our own accord, it is only a work of the Spirit through the true gospel of Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

3. What is the relationship of the “rule” to peace, mercy, and grace (v. 16)? What do you think are the “marks of Jesus”? Do you have any?

The “rules” we work under are truly outpourings of the fruit of the Spirit. If we abide in Christ, these will be the natural occurrences in our lives. The marks of Jesus are the persecutions Christ endured and similar ways in which we fellowship in His sufferings. Talk about what it looks like to fellowship in His sufferings now. Another way of looking at this is to crucify our own nature (Galatians 2:20) and be one with Christ in the way we pour out our own desires, place them at the cross, and truly seek to be used for His kingdom.

4. What is Paul working to communicate when he says that “neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but a new creation?”

It is the foundation of this entire book, a false gospel of works based religion is no gospel at all. It is not our working that attains us anything, it is only the new creation we have been granted because of the grace of Christ.

5. What does it look like for you personally to boast in the cross of Jesus Christ? How is it that you can start making this a regular practice in your life?

Allow people to share of their experiences and how Christ has worked in and through their lives. Maybe when they were at their weakest, Christ made Himself manifest and displayed His power and working through their lives. It is a constant humbling of ourselves and taking on of the attitude of John the Baptist when he said that, “He must become greater, I must become less.”