

Galatians 6:11-18

Study Guide

Introduction

It is natural to put our best foot forward with others and say things that present a good picture of ourselves. On the contrary, it can feel a little reckless to get too 'honest' at times. Give an example of when you felt the need to impress others, or when you felt embarrassed by something (i.e. your most embarrassing moment).

Today, our passage talks about "boasting"! (The Greek word means to 'rejoice' or 'glory in'). We can either have human boasting or cross-centered boasting.

Here is the challenge: Keep rejoicing in the cross of Jesus.

1. Read Galatians 6:12-13.

Discuss the following dynamics of human boasting. Give examples of where you have seen this:

1. **Impress-** "Make a good showing in the flesh" (v.12a)
2. **Be Liked** – "that they may not be persecuted for the cross..." (v.13a)
3. **Fake-** "circumcised, do not themselves keep the law" (v.13)

2. Read Galatians 6:14-16.

Discuss the implications of cross-centered boasting. How do you think the cross of Jesus changed Paul? How has it changed you?

1. **New Motivation-** "...boast except in the cross..." (14)
Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. How can Paul boast so gladly about his weaknesses?
Discuss.
2. **New Creation-** "anything...but a new creation." (15)
Read 2 Corinthians 5:17- How does being "in Christ" change you?
3. **New Nation-** "the Israel of God." (16)
Read 1 Peter 2:9- How does being grafted in as God's holy nation change you?
Discuss.

Application

Spend some time in quiet prayer and reflection identifying areas where you have felt compelled to present yourself in a dishonest way to others. Ask Jesus to help you be true. Now pray as a group thanking Jesus for what He did for you on the cross.

Galatians 6:11-18

Message Outline

Galatians- Freedom!

Galatians 5:1

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Law-based vs. Love-based

Galatians 6:11

"See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand."

DON'T MISS THIS!

Big Idea: Keep rejoicing in the cross of Jesus.

A. Human Boasting (12-13)

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.

1. Impress- (12a)

2. Force- (12b)

3. Be Liked – (12c)

4. Fake- (13)

B. Boasting in the Cross (14-16)

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.

1. New Motivation (14)

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will **boast** all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

B. Cross-centered Boasting (14-16)

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.

1. New Motivation (14)

2. New Creation (15)

3. New Nation (16)

Big Idea: Keep rejoicing in the cross of Jesus.

C. Live in Grace (17-18)

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.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Imprisonments, countless beatings, often near death, 5x39 lashes; 3x beaten with rods; 1x stoned; 3x shipwrecked; adrift for 24hrs.; frequent travel dangers- rivers, robbers, his own people, Gentiles, cities, wilderness, false 'brothers', sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, cold, exposure, daily pressure for all the churches.

Galatians 6:16: "...walk by this rule."

1 Cor. 1:27-29

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; ... weak ...to shame the strong; ... low and despised in the world, ... 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 31 ... Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD.

1. God Uses Hurting People- Joseph (Gen. 45:2)

2. ... Doubting People- Gideon (Judges 6:14-17)

3. ... Unpopular People – Jeremiah

4. ... Unsuccessful People- Samson (Judges 13-16).

5. ... Sinful People- King David