

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “O Foolish Galatians”—Galatians 3:1-9

FELLOWSHIP

Welcome to 2017! As the church exits its week of prayer and fasting, it is exciting to think about what God has in store for us. Surrendering to God’s will is the first and most vital step to living by faith; living by faith means one will receive an ample supply of God’s Spirit; living in the Spirit translates into a joyous, victorious Christian life. Let’s continue to encourage each other in our groups to be praying together and expressing hearts and minds that are yielded to the Lord.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Galatians 3:1 *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?*

What a dramatic way for Paul to begin his next section in his letter to this church. Jesus forbid his listeners from calling each other “fools,” so why would Paul introduce his exhortation this way? (cf. Mt 5:22 & Luke 12:20) Some might look to resolve this in the original languages, since its true that the English is weaker in differentiating the vocabulary of the Greek. But, the real difference is in the intent and heart of the speaker towards the listener. Paul was passionately trying to rescue these believers from the imminent pain they would experience trying to live religiously all on their own.

Having listened to Pastor Brian’s message this last Sunday and re-reading these nine verses, below are some categories of application to discuss and discover together how the Holy Spirit might be teaching us from Paul’s words to the Galatians.

- What do we learn about the character or personality of God from this passage? What does it teach regarding his intentions towards the believer?
- Why was Paul’s correction aimed at *the church* and not the individual? How can our fellowship respond corporately to Paul’s plea?
- Who were the Christians in your life that modeled a life in the Spirit? What kinds of things were most worth borrowing for your own walk of faith?
- What are some of the personal disciplines a Christian could be practicing to foster a life in the Spirit?
- What were some of the social or racial tensions in the Galatian church that may have led to their failure and Paul’s strong correction? How does living in the Spirit make the church a better place to reconcile our society’s cultural brokenness? What pains in our communities should we look to heal first?

PRAY

Please finish your time together by breaking into some smaller, gender based groups so we can encourage and pray for each other as openly as possible.

