

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “The Glory of the Cross” - Galatians 6:14

FELLOWSHIP

So many messages bombard us and our children every minute of the day. All of them are vying for our attention and trying to convince us that they are relevant, or that our lives will be better with them. From career choice, cars we drive, food we eat, causes we support, or hair product we choose, all are persuasive and value based. Religions do the same thing, arguing for relevance and membership, they stack their credentials and market their benefits. I wish I could have seen Paul’s original letter to this church when he pens in verse eleven, “See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!” Much like texting today in ALL CAPITALS implies yelling, Paul was “raising his voice” to impress on them this warning against religious charlatans. What then are the selling points that Jesus’ followers can show as to why they signed up? For Paul, it was only one thing, the cross and the crucifixion of Christ. Wow...that is not the kind of campaign a first century salesman would sign up to market, but it was Paul’s passion.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

Read **Galatians 6** out loud together with special emphasis on verse 14. Discuss ways that the main idea of this passage can apply to our lives and growth as a believer. Notice how the New Living Translation handles this passage. What are some of the differences between the translations, and why do you think they made those choices? Maybe someone in your group has another translation to compare. Has the meaning been helped or hindered?

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (NKJV)

“As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died.” (NLT)

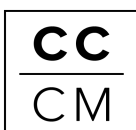
- The stigma of Paul’s day with the Roman cross was strong and brutal. It communicated fear, shame, and intimidation in a horrific way. This was an instrument to not only kill, but humiliate. The Roman politician and philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero stated regarding the cross, “*Let the very name of the cross be far away not only from the body of a Roman citizen, but even from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears.*” Why did Paul then boast in the cross? (Read Romans 5:9, 8:34, 1 Cor 5:7, Gal 3:13, Col 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:14-15)

- Pastor Brian in his message noted five significant things that the Cross of Christ has accomplished. Which of these have had a personal impact on your life, and which of them are you still trying to understand or see realized practically in your life? • *Sin was judged at the Cross* • *The demonstration of God’s love* • *God has now become accessible* • *The righteousness of God was appeased* • *Satan was defeated*

- What about Paul made him socially significant? e.g. achievements, pedigree, race, citizenship, politics, academics, etc. How did he interpret those things after meeting Christ? Did his resume become irrelevant or did his perspective merely change? Thinking back to the book of Acts how did God actually use Paul’s past, **both good and bad**, in his Gospel work? Each of us has different backgrounds, but what is your perspective *now* on your past? How have you begun to see the ways God has used your life experiences for his kingdom? (Read Jeremiah 9:23-24)

PRAY

Thinking about your neighbors and all of the adversities of life, how might you introduce Jesus to them through friendship and community? The integrity of the gospel is seen in the integrity of how the Cross of Christ has changed your life. Let’s invite them to share in that with us!



Community Group Leader Guide
Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen’s message on April 30, 2017.
Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/galatians/video/the-glory-of-the-cross/>