

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “A New Creation” - Galatians 6:11-18

FELLOWSHIP

The scars on our bodies remind us of the stories of pain in our lives. The pair on my hip and left forearm remind me why I gave up skateboarding in eighth grade. For the Jews circumcision was a bodily mark that pointed them to Genesis and God’s ownership of a special people. They wore this with pride, but their own branding blinded them to the marks of a new covenant. Jesus wore scars on his body, his hands, feet, side, and perhaps even his back and face, that witness to the inauguration of the new covenant. While Genesis recounts God passing through the covenantal sacrifice while Abraham slept, Jesus would ratify the new covenant himself by being the sacrifice. The old did not have the capacity to reconcile sin. It had a ceiling, its purpose was limited. Since the old nature of man was corrupted, the old agreement could never foster the new spiritual state needed. Jeremiah prophesied that this new offering between man and God would take a completely new contract or covenant. The old agreement wouldn’t meet the needs of this kind of relationship. (31:31-34) New birth, new nature, new purpose, new understandings, new lifestyle and new destiny, the old could not provide these. Paul’s argument for this epistle then is, “Why try to exercise, buffet, ritualize, or control the old nature when it will never reach where God wants us to be?” None of these disciplines will avail to anything, only being new in Christ will suffice.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

This week we’ve reached the end of our study in Galatians. During the next couple of days, try re-reading the book one or two times. Seeing the ideas in their whole will complement our in-depth studies with Pastor Brian and help us to retrain what the Spirit is saying to us. For this present study, be mindful of the context of **chapter 6**, as our focus is on **verse 15**.

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”

- God initiated his redemptive plan for humanity within moments of the original sin being committed. The problem along the way was the descent into religious ritual while the world waited for real restoration. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:26-27. What do these Old Testament passages reveal about God’s intentions towards his followers? Why would these promises give hope to their original readers and to us today?
- One of the senior religious leaders of their day came by the cloak of night to question Jesus. Read their discussion in John 3:1-21. Why did Jesus place such an emphasis on “new birth” for this leader? Where can you identify in these verses each person of God’s Trinitarian nature at work? Have you had a “born-again” experience? What was it like?
- Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that, “*Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. Old things have passed away, all things have become new.*” Every new year people make resolutions that they inevitably break. What have been some of your funniest or most serious resolutions? What is the message of Galatians regarding lifestyle changes? Compare out loud Galatians 5:6 and 6:15. What does being a new creation mean practically?
- Who in your journey towards God stood out because being “born-again” changed their life style dramatically? What kinds of things changed in their lives that you knew could only be because God was involved? What changed in your life since being “born-again” that is a witness to other?

PRAY

Everybody is looking for new starts and second chances. Who can you pray over that needs Jesus, and would love to hear the gospel of new beginnings?

