

GALATIANS
Part 4 - Family matters
4:1-31

We should talk:

- 1) What is the most important thing to teach sons as they grow up?
- 2) What causes a parent the most anguish?
- 3) How are the sons of Isaac and Ishmael still “duking it out”?

A) Not slaves, but sons - 4:1-7

- 1) How is a child like and unlike a slave?
- 2) Who or what is our “guardian” or “manager” in our spiritual youth?
- 3) What are “the elemental principles of the world”?
 - God wrote two “books”; Scripture and Nature
- 4) How is nature a good guide - up to a point?
- 5) Why was it important that Jesus be born “under the Law”?
- 6) What “feeling” would you associate with the title “Abba”?
- 7) If you are an heir of God, and God is King, does that make you a princess (prince)?

B) Carry on, my wayward son - 4:8-20

- 1) What is the major juxtaposition of verse 9?
- 2) What are some examples of the “slavery” the Galatians were returning to?
- 3) How does this make Paul feel?
- 4) What was the “bodily ailment” that brought Paul to Galatia? (See Acts 14:19-23)
- 5) What is the difference between Paul’s ministry and that of the “others”?
- 6) According to verse 19, how deep is Paul’s anguish over their “turning away”?
- 7) What is Paul’s wish? Is he being hyperbolic?

C) The example of Hagar and Sarah - 4:21-31

- 1) How much faith did the birth of Ishmael require?
- 2) How much faith did the birth of Isaac require?
- 3) How does Paul reverse the thinking of the Judaizers in verses 25&26?
- 4) What should the Galatians expect according to verse 29?
- 5) What would it mean to be born a slave or free man in Paul’s day?
- 6) How would you debunk the myth of “spiritual but not religious”?

7) How do the “spiritual” often persecute the “religious”?

Homework for next week:

Read 5:1-25

First time quietly to yourself

Second time out loud to yourself

Third time with eyes shut, just listening to it

- Be sure to write down any thoughts / questions that come to mind

Pray: Make Supplications (prayers for self) for:

Acknowledgment that you are a child of God through faith in Christ

The ability to remain faithful to the revealed Word of God

Encouragement of the Holy Spirit to be *both* spiritual and religious

GALATIANS 5
Freedom!
Galatians 5:1-25

Let's Talk about It:

- 1) What is the difference between freedom and licentiousness?
- 2) It's apple season. Do you like walking through an orchard picking apples? Why / why not?
- 3) Are desires (basic human drives) bad things? Why / Why not?

VI) Freedom and Slavery

A) For freedom Christ has set us free - 5:-15

- 1) What does it mean to be "Free"?
- 2) What would this have meant in Paul's day?
- 3) What "yoke of slavery" is Paul referencing in verse 1?
- 4) Why would circumcision nullify one's freedom?
- 5) Who is "getting in the way" of the Galatians?
- 6) What does Paul mean by "leaven" in verse 9?
 - How much yeast does it take to make a loaf of bread (or 5 gallons of mead ☺)?
 - Why so little?
 - How is false teaching like yeast?
- 7) Why is Paul being persecuted?
 - What could prevent his being persecuted?
- 8) What are we to make of Paul's wish in verse 13?
- 9) How *should* we use our freedom in Christ?
- 10) How does the Gospel free us to truly love other?
- 11) What is the warning of verse 15?
- 12) Do motivations (*why* we do things) matter to God?

B) Walking through the Spirit's orchard - 5:16-25

- 1) How do you control desires?
- 2) What are "the desires of the Spirit"?
- 3) Are these always opposed to "the desires of the flesh"?
- 4) Why does God put His Spirit within us, according to verse 17b?
- 5) How does the Spirit set us free from the Law?

- see also **John 8:31-36**

- 6) Which of the “works of the flesh” jump out at you?
- 7) How do all these “works” (not fruits!) show desire run amok?
- 8) How are we to understand verse 21b in light of the total depravity of being human?
 - Does doing any of these works cancel Christ’s redemptive actions?
 - How does the context of “walking” help us understand this verse?
- 9) Is “the fruit of the Spirit” singular or plural?
- 10) Can you have some “fruit” but not another? (Manifests in ALL 9 ways?!?)
- 11) Why is there no Law against this fruit?
- 12) Does belonging to Jesus mean our human desires will just disappear?

Homework:

Read: Galatians 6 (whole chapter - it’s short)

First reading: quietly to yourself

Second reading: Out loud to yourself

Third reading: listening as it is read to you (like a bedtime story)

Be sure to write down any thoughts, insights, or questions to share

Pray: (prayer and Scripture should always go together; like peanut butter and jelly)

Thanksgiving: for the holy Spirit living and working within you

Intercession: For those who “walk” in captivity to their desires

Supplication: For a greater manifestation of the fruit of the spirit in your life
- one or more of the “flavors” if needs be

GALATIANS 6
Reaping things up
6:1-18

Let's talk about it:

- 1) It is now the season of reaping the harvest. What harvest are you looking forward to?
 - I like growing my own food, but I'm having trouble finding bacon seeds ☺
- 2) Comment on the following quote of unknown origin, "Comparison is the thief of joy"
- 3) Which is more common in our world today; boasting or envy?

VI) Bearing a good showing

A) Bearing with one another - 6:1-10

- 1) How do you restore someone *caught* in a sin?
- 2) How does one get "caught up" in another person's sin?
 - Is sin (or certain sins) contagious like Covid-19?
- 3) What is the "law of Christ" we are to fulfill?
- 4) How good are human beings at self-deception? (Verse 3)
 - compare this to **I John 1:8**
- 5) How are we to "test" our own works?
- 6) Isn't "boasting" a bad thing? So what do we do with verse 4?
- 7) How do we reconcile verse 5 with verse 2?
- 8) How do verses 7-8 help to explain verse 6?
- 9) Explain how a person's faith "grows". What are the stages of growth?
- 10) When does "doing good" become wearisome?
- 11) Where should our good deeds be targeted first? Why there?
- 12) How does your church (congregation) define "fellowship"?
 - How does Paul define this concept?
 - How does Jesus show it?
 - What difference does fellowship make in the life of a believer?

B) "First in Show" (Blue ribbon Christians?) - 6:11-18

- 1) Why does Paul emphasize that he is the author? What do we learn of him here?
- 2) Why do the "Judaizers" want the Galatians to be circumcised?
 - see also **I Samuel 18:25-27**

- 3) Why does Paul see this requirement as inauthentic?
- 4) What is Paul's only measure for boasting?
- 5) How does verse 15 echo **2 Corinthians 5:17**?
- 6) What are "the marks of Jesus" that Paul bears on his body?
 - What is the Roman Catholic understanding of *stigmata*?
- 7) How would you sum up the letter to the Galatians in one sentence?

Homework: None

Prepare for our Reformation study on (To be determined) .