

Week 33 – Questions to Consider

Galatians 4-6 ~ Ephesians 1-2

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Which cartoon or Disney character do you relate the best with?

1. How is an adopted child different than a biological child? How are they similar? What amazes you about adoption by God? How does that kind of love make you feel? How should our witnessing be shaped by this open invitation to be adopted? (Galatians 4:1-7)
2. What was your life like before you were born again? How were you ultimately “enslaved” to the “weak and worthless elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:8-9)? Why is this imagery of being “enslaved” help you think more clearly about the seriousness of sin? How does this help you understand the freedom we have in Jesus (Galatians 5:1)?
3. Read Galatians 5:13-14. What is a “freedom” you might have that is better to be laid down in order to better love and serve others?
4. What does it mean to “walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16)? How does that help us to “not gratify the desires of the flesh”?
5. Read the fruits of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. How did that list describe you when you were unsaved/lost? Why are those characteristics evidence of lostness leading to Hell?
6. Read the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24. How has God grown this fruit in your life since you were born again? Why are those characteristics evidence of salvation leading to Heaven?
7. While we are called to reach the lost with Gospel truth and love, we are given a warning in Galatians 6:1. What does this mean? How do we set boundaries in life to avoid temptations?
8. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. What amazes you about this? What is difficult to understand in this?
9. How does the fact that God “works all things according to the counsel of His will” encourage you (Ephesians 1:11)? Why is it so hard to see God’s goodness and purposes in the midst of so much evil? How can we move forward even when we don’t understand the “Why?” to so much suffering in the world around us and in our own lives?
10. In reading Ephesians 1 & 2, what has stood out to you? What questions has it raised? What clarity has it provided?

More questions at: www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions

Something to Brag About

Galatians 6:14 (ESV) “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.”

Our Lives Either Boast About Ourselves or Our Creator

- Imitating and following the world and Satan, seeking the approval of others, pleasing ourselves, our own authority

Galatians 5:19–21 “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- Imitating and following God for His approval, seeking pleasure in Him, under Jesus’ authority & Lordship

Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Our Salvation & Sanctification are Gifts

1. We Should Not Waste His Gift of Spiritual Freedom

Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

2. We Cannot Brag About Our Spiritual Salvation

Ephesians 2:8–10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

3. We Cannot Brag About Our Spiritual Growth

Galatians 3:1–3 “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. [2] Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? [3] Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

We Boast in the Cross of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:23–25 “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, [24] but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [25] For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

What Do We Have As Christians in the Cross?

What Do We Have to Offer the Lost in Jesus?

- **Adoption** - Galatians 4:5 “that we might receive adoption as sons.”, Ephesians 1:5 “In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will”
- **The Holy Spirit** - Galatians 4:6 “God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”, Ephesians 1:13 “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”
- **Love, Freedom from Satan** - Galatians 4:7 “So you are no longer a slave, but a son”, Galatians 4:8, “you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.”
- **Immeasurable, Eternal Riches** - Galatians 4:7 “and if a son, then an heir through God”, Ephesians 1:18 “the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

- **Freedom to Resist Sin** - “Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”, Galatians 6:14 “by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”
- **Hope** - Galatians 5:5 “through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.”, Ephesians 1:18 “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you”
- **New Life** - Galatians 6:15 “a new creation”
- **Peace, Mercy, & Grace; Reconciled Relationship** - Galatians 6:16 peace and mercy be upon them”, Ephesians 1:2 “Grace to you and peace”, Ephesians 2:16 “reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross”
- **Every Spiritual Blessing** - Ephesians 1:3 “Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”
- **Chosen, Made Holy, Forgiveness** - Ephesians 1:4 “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him”, Ephesians 1:7 “forgiveness of our trespasses”
- **Power** - Ephesians 1:19 “the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might”
- **Purpose** - Ephesians 2:10 “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 35: Ephesians 3-6, Philippians 1

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan

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