

Galatians Small Group



Session 1- Balance of Grace and Truth

- Icebreaker - In the world today we see the danger of extremes. When peoples opinions swings one way or the other, things can become dangerous and sinful.
 - **Discuss some of the ways you have seen these extremes in the modern world?** It could be politics when taken too far to one side. Convenience of Technology versus Personal Communication. Competition versus Everyone Wins.
 - *LEADERS NOTE:* Do not let this conversation drift into a debate of political ideology. The idea is that either extreme is dangerous and not where each person falls on the spectrum. If there is a concern you may avoid the political reference altogether.
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READ: I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6-7 (NKJV)

- In the first chapter of Galatians Paul is speaking to the church against those that are falling back into Religion and forsaking their Relationship with Christ. They are falling back into the laws that Christ freed them from.
- **Why do you think that the Galatians were falling back into religion? What are some ways today that we put religion over our relationship with God?**
- *LEADERS NOTE:* The Galatians had accepted Christ as their savior, but because of pressure from the Jewish culture they were falling back into their old religious customs and laws. This is an opportunity to discuss how sometimes we desire to EARN our salvation because it gives us more control and in some ways peace of mind. The truth is that our relationship and faith in Jesus Christ gives us salvation as a FREE GIFT from God that we can never earn.

READ: But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:8-9 (NKJV)

- What are some other (false) gospels that are being preached today? Why are they appealing to so many people?

- LEADERS NOTE: Again, this is an opportunity to discuss the two extremes. On one hand we have churches that are preaching Grace at the expense of truth (Churches that water down scripture and emphasize experience to where the Bible and the gospel takes a back seat to Universal Salvation or Health and Wealth.) On the other side we have those that are preaching condemnation and legalism where laws must be obeyed and there is no room for grace because salvation must be earned.
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READ: For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)

- How do you determine who and what influences you? Is our fear of God greater than our fear of man? If so, how and why?

- LEADERS NOTE: Do your influences come from the world or from Christ. Are your friends helping build your light up or are friends extinguishing your light. Why do we fear people more than we fear God. It may help as a leader to share a way that you fear men more than God as we all fail in this aspect. Whether it is failing to share our faith or not telling someone the truth about something in scripture
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- After studying Galatians 1, it is clear that the church needed to be reminded of the truth of the Gospel. What is God calling you to be reminded of daily in your walk in light of your standing with Christ as a new creation?

- LEADERS NOTE: For most people it is probably going to have something to do with their fear of displeasing friends, family, or coworkers with their living out the gospel. For others it could be a sin they are called for freedom from. It also could be a sense of legalism