First Things First: Galatians *Grace and Restoration*



Key Scripture

"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" - Matthew 7:1-3 (ESV)

"For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?" - 1 Corinthians 5:12

"17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (ESV)

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load. 6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." - Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- Are you someone who enjoys restoration projects?
- When someone accuses you of wrongdoing, is your natural instinct to deny it, listen to hear, or justify it?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Galatians 6:1-10. Is this passage a big list of individual pieces of advice, or is there some thread that connects all of these verses?
- Read Galatians 6:1-10. What is our responsibility when it comes to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Galatians 6:11-18. Why does being a "new creation" render circumcision meaningless?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- We have read Matthew 7:1 about not judging others. Yet, how do we reconcile that with God's call in 1 Corinthians 5:12 that we should judge those within the church, and "restore" a person caught in wrongdoing? What's the difference?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you weren't sure how to react to something sinful that a friend of yours did? What did you end up doing?
- In Galatians 6 we are simultaneously told to bear "one another's burdens" (v.2). and our "own load" (v.5). Is this saying that we shouldn't let others help us?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- What am I sowing? Will it produce what I want?
- Am I "weary of doing good" right now? How can I get my batteries recharged?
- What is your biggest takeaway from Galatians?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

• For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

- 1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
- 2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
- 3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
- 4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
- 5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
- 6. Pray for one another.