

Small groups discussions question and sermon notes

Every group is different; here are some questions to consider for use in yours.

If you read Acts 13-14 (Mark's homework assignment) what stood out to you from Paul's missionary that took him the Galatia and more?

Read Phil 3:1-8 How do you see Paul's background as a Pharisee shaping both his passion and perspective in this letter and the one to the Galatians?

Fighting for the True Gospel

1. Paul — and later Luther — were willing to fight for the gospel. Why is this worth contending for, even if it offends or divides?
2. What are modern “perversions” or distortions of the gospel you see in the church or culture today?
3. How can we hold firm to gospel truth while also showing humility and grace toward those who disagree?
4. Luther's conviction was: *“Here I stand; I can do no other.”* Where in your life might God be calling you to take a courageous stand for truth?

Personal Reflection and Application

1. Where in your faith journey have you drifted toward a “faith plus something” mentality?
2. Reflect on the statement: “We are saved by faith alone, but a saving faith will never be alone.”
3. How does faith show itself in action without becoming legalistic?
4. Do you ever measure your closeness to God by how well you've been doing spiritually that week? How does the gospel correct that mindset?
5. What's a “tool” in your walk with Christ that helps you live by the Spirit—but could become a “rule” if imposed on others? (e.g., fasting, accountability, music choices, personal boundaries)
6. In what ways does walking in the Spirit bring greater freedom than living by rules or by impulses?
7. What practical step could you take this week to rest in the finished work of Christ instead of striving for acceptance?
8. How might embracing the gospel as *gift righteousness* (not achieved righteousness) transform how you view confession, failure, or worship?

An Angry Little Letter

10-12-25

Mark McCartin

A Freedom Worth Fighting For

Gal 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

1 Cor 15:3 *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:*

"Don't check your brains in at the door."

Eph 4:11-15; Act 17:1; 2 Tim 2: 15; Rom 14:4

"Eat the meat and spit out the Bones."

Something worth fighting for: Gal 1:1-6

Gal 2:16 *know that a person is not justified by the works of the law (obedience to rules), but by faith in Jesus Christ.*

Gal 1:1-10

1 Cor 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

2 Cor 11:13-15 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Isa 43:10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

Some things are not worth fighting for

- Do not mix up ever the implications of the gospel with the gospel itself. (The gospel is not about what you are to do, it's about what Jesus has done.)
- Our tools can't be made into other's rules