

galatians

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

discussion guide

WEEK 2: THE THING THAT COULD UNITE THE WORLD

Read the Text

Galatians 2:1-10

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. ³ But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴ Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— ⁵ to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶ And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the

circumcised. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Main Point

Unity is hard to come by these days. It seems like we can argue about almost everything whether it's politically, socially, ideologically, or culturally. As Christians though, we have the hope that ***when we follow the simple Gospel without adding our own rules and extras to it, it actually leads to unity.***

Regardless of our background, socioeconomic status, culture, or upbringing, God gives the same Gospel to all of us. Paul and Titus are from completely different cultures, and yet the unity of their faith in the Gospel is far bigger than their different cultural backgrounds. ***This belief in the real simple Gospel gives us freedom.*** We are free from having to follow extra rules to get into God's family, we are free from our past sins, free from worrying that we have to work our way into God's grace, free from having to win the approval of others, because we already have all that we need in Jesus! ***When we finally get to experience this freedom and unity with others, we showcase to the world the power of God and his Word.*** Our faith in Jesus is the only thing that can bring true unity with one another.

Reflect Together

1. ***Who is God?*** Why does God care about unity? How does He display unity?
2. ***What has He done?*** When we add rules to the Gospel, we make it more about us and less about Jesus. But the Gospel is about Jesus. Not us. How is the Gospel about Jesus, and how do we tend to make it about ourselves? Do you identify with falling into that trap?
3. ***Who are you?*** How do you sometimes add or even subtract from the Gospel? What leads you to do that?
4. ***What are you to do?*** The unity that we experience from our faith in the simple Gospel showcases to the world who God is.

It's something that people are drawn to and interested in. Where in your life can you live out the unity and freedom that the Gospel brings? Maybe it's pursuing a deeper conversation with a neighbor, co-worker, or non-believing friend. Maybe it's being more present in areas of life where there aren't a lot of believers. See "Mission Together" for more details.

Abide Together

Pray together about what came up during discussion. Pray that each of you would go out this week and display the freedom and unity that comes from believing the simple Gospel. Pray that God would reveal and help you release the "extras" that you may add to your faith.

Mission Together

As you think through question #4, be intentional this week about sharing the unity and freedom that is offered from following the simple Gospel. This doesn't necessarily mean talking directly about the Gospel (although it could!), but rather just engaging someone in a meaningful way. Asking questions, drawing them out, learning more about them, showing that you care to get to know them. Even if you're from completely different backgrounds, you are showing unity by wanting to better understand them.