



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Rely on God's Promises, Not Our Performance

For the week of October 7th, 2018

Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the

SERMON SUMMARY

The sermon text was Galatians 4:21-31. This was a complex text that required much explanation. Essentially, Paul uses the Law to refute the Judaizers use of the Law (4:21)

He does so in 3 sections:

1. Referencing a story (4:22-23),
2. Explaining an allegory (4:26-29)
3. Giving an application (4:30-31).

From this sermon pastor Jason brought out several application points for us:

1. We must realize what type of "son" we are - slave son or free son
2. We can rejoice in God's power amid our weakness
3. We must reject the false teachers and teachings of legalism
4. We can rely completely on God's promises over our performance

WORD

1. What was one thing in the sermon that stood out or hit home for you?

2. In Galatians 4:21-31, Paul contrasts many things:

- two women - Hagar and Sarah
- two sons - Ishmael and Isaac
- two covenants - Old covenant and new covenant
- two Jerusalems - in Arabia and "above"
- two status' - slave and free

What is the main point that Paul is making by contrasting each of these things?

3. Paul's main application for the Galatians was to "cast out the slave woman (4:30)"... meaning "get rid of legalistic living." Pastor Jason shared 4 Legalism Diagnostic Questions for us to consider:

- a. Are you requiring obedience to commandments that were appropriate for a certain time but not longer necessary?
- b. Are you living by the letter of God's commands, but not the spirit of the commands?
- c. Are you requiring others to be obedient to extra-biblical commands?

one who has a husband.” 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

d. Are you believing deep down that God’s evaluation of you is based on your works or performance?
Which one of these, if any, do you see in your own life?

4. In this text, Paul repeats the phrase “it is written” multiple times. In doing so, he is calling the Galatians to live in the freedom that comes with believing what God has said. Is there a particular verse or passage of Scripture that has provided you with freedom in your Christian life? If so, share about it.

5. In verse 27, Paul quotes from Isaiah 54:1. The call is for God’s people to rejoice and celebrate when God works powerfully amid His people’s weakness. What are some biblical examples (besides Abraham and Sarah) where God worked mightily through a “weak” person?

6. In what way do you feel “weak” right now? How might God want to work amid your weakness?

7. Verse 27 calls God’s people to rejoice. Do you see UBC as a rejoicing church? What are some ways we can grow to be a more rejoicing church? (maybe write down your ideas and send them to the church staff).

8. Verse 30 talks about “casting out the slave woman and her sons.” This was a call for the Galatians to reject the legalistic teachings of the Judaizers and remove them (the Judaizers) and their followers from the church. Confronting false teachers is never easy, and church discipline is never fun. Why is it important for a faithful church to confront and, if necessary, remove those who embrace false teaching?

ACTION

1. Repent of any legalistic tendencies that you see in your own life.
2. Share with the UBC staff how we could become a more rejoicing church.
3. Memorize one passage of Scripture that helps remind you that God accepts you based on Christ’s performance, not yours.

PRAYER

1. Pray that UBC continues to be a church that rejects legalism and lives in freedom of the Spirit
2. Pray that UBC become a rejoicing church
3. Pray for the Lord to use your weaknesses to display his power