

NEW CREATION

Galatians 6:11-18

See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to [b] the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters.

Amen

FREEDOM

- Ability and opportunity
 - To do what I want
 - The constitution of the United States
 - To do what will benefit me in eternity?
 - The law lays shows me the way
 - But I'm still not free...
 - To desire and do what will benefit me in eternity
 - This is the freedom Paul speaks of

RECAP: SLAVERY AND CIRCUMCISION

12 Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh.

What does it mean to be Jewish?

Who are the children of Abraham?

RECAP: SLAVERY AND CIRCUMCISION

- Circumcision
 - Abraham
 - Sign of the covenant
 - Sign of a “law follower”
- Circumcision of the body, or the heart?
 - Romans 2:25-29
- Who is a true Jew?

BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

- John 3:3 Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.
- John 1:11-13 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

WHY PUSH CIRCUMCISION

- To make a good impression outwardly
- And to avoid persecution

THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS

- Galatians 5:11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.
- Matthew 10:22 You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
- John 15:21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

TAKING UP THE CROSS

- Humbled before God
- Humbled before men

TAKING UP THE CROSS

- Do you proclaim Christ openly, without shame, in the world?
- Or do you watch your words so that you only mention God when you are around people you know are Christian?
- Do you challenge lies when you hear them?
- Or do you hunker down and avoid “Christian talk” outside church?
- Are you afraid of being known as a Christian?

BOASTING AND HUMILITY

- 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- What do you boast in?

JEREMIAH 9:23-24

- **23** This is what the LORD says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the LORD.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:30, 12:9, 10

- **30** If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
- **9** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.
- **10** That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

BOASTING

- What do you boast in?
- Do you seek the approval of men? or of God?
(because you can't have both)
- Do you boast in your weakness? Do you see the power of God at work in your weakness?
- When you are at work, or at home, or at the park or at the store...is it clear that you are not of the world?

NEW CREATION

- **15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.**
- **What counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

NEW CREATION

- Do you rest in God, or are you trusting something else to carry you through?
- When you say you have faith, what does that mean?
- Is it only belief in your mind, or is it expressed in love?
- Where is the expression of your faith?
- How is your faith expressed in love?

PEACE AND MERCY

- **16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule to the Israel of God.**
- *Peace:*
 - *What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*
- *Mercy:*
 - *Position v condition*

SOME FINAL QUESTIONS

- Are you pursuing the law? Are you enslaved to the praise of men?
Are you afraid of persecution
- Are you living a life of confession, accountability and repentance? Do you regularly/continually submit your life to the Holy Spirit to be filled?
- What motivates you? Why do you come to outreach? What do you boast in?