

2016: Week 29Sunday, July 17th 2016*"The Way of the Cross or _____ ?"***Galatians 6:14**

¹⁴But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (NASB)

On Sunday we finished our church-wide sermon series through the Book of Galatians. John did a great job highlighting Paul's bottom-line message from this letter. There are really only two paths in which you can approach God: His way or your way. God's way is based on the cross of Jesus to provide forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and a hope of eternal life. Your way can be anything else in which you trust to bring about your own *earned* favor with God. Scripture affirms that our justification, sanctification, and glorification are all received by God's grace through faith in what Christ accomplished at His death. As we reflect on Galatians 6:11–18 this week, let us encourage one another to respond to the Lord's calling on our lives *His way*: by grace through faith.

1. READ Galatians 6:11–13

- On Sunday John categorized the way of circumcision from 6:11–13 with the following sub-classifications:
"the way of popularity" (12)

"the way of the flesh/ materialism" (12)

"the way of temporal safety" (12)

"the way of hypocrisy" (13)

"the way of boasting in self" (13)

- In one way or another each of these sub-classifications promotes the idea of either seeking to earn spiritual recognition and praise from others or seeking to acquire saving merit before God based on one's own efforts.
Explain how each of the sub-classifications listed above might be illustrated today.

Which "way of circumcision" mentality might you find yourself drifting towards today? How can someone in your family or your church family help you stay away from this incorrect way of thinking?

2. READ Galatians 6:14–18

- What did Paul mean when he said, "the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (v.14)?
- How might your life demonstrate that the world is "crucified to you?"
- How might your life demonstrate that you are "crucified to the world?"
- The way of the cross is a completely different way to approach the Lord and the spiritual growth He desires for you than the way of circumcision.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in allowing you to come to God via the way of the cross?

What is the role of the Holy Spirit regarding your spiritual growth as a result of the cross?

FAMILY PRAYER: Ask the Lord God for the strength and power to walk under the leading of His Spirit. Thank Him for His gracious plan of offering you salvation, hope, and life through the cross of His Son, Jesus.