



Sermon Discussion Guide

3.1.26 Message | Chuck Sackett | Galatians 3:1-29

Note: This discussion guide is designed for both group and individual use. While some questions are written with group discussion in mind, individuals can still use this guide for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer. Simply adapt any group-oriented questions for your own study time.

LOOK BACK - Relationship & Accountability (~15% of your discussion)

→ Share Life

- What's something simple you're thankful for right now?
- What's been taking most of your attention lately?
- Is there anyone in your community who needs help right now, and how can our group come alongside them?

→ Follow Up From Last Time

- As you think back to last week, what stood out or stayed with you?
- Was there anything you felt invited to try, practice, or pay attention to this week? How did that go?
- Did that show up in any conversations, choices, or moments this week?
- Where did you see God at work - even in small ways?

LOOK UP - Scripture & Discovery (~60%)

→ Read (twice, in different translations)

- Read the text you are studying this week in the ESV out loud.
- Read the text you are studying this week a second time in an alternate version.

→ Retell

- In your own words, summarize what the author is saying in this passage.

Key Scripture (ESV)

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- It has always been Jesus only; salvation has never been earned, added to, or improved upon.
 - The Spirit comes through faith, not through rule-keeping or performance.
 - The law revealed our need but could not rescue us; it pointed us to Christ.
 - God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Jesus: one "Seed," one way of salvation.
 - In Christ, a new identity replaces old categories of status, ethnicity, and achievement.
 - Returning to performance or adding conditions to the Gospel is a step backward from freedom.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

Think of a time when you were tempted to go back to something familiar because growth or freedom felt uncomfortable.

Why do you think it is often easier to return to what feels controllable rather than continue trusting God?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (Does your group understand the message?)

- What did you like about this passage?
- Did you find anything difficult about this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about people?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- In Galatians 3:1–5, what does Paul point to as proof that the Galatians received the Spirit by trusting God and not by following rules?
- When Paul says, "Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?", what shift is he warning them about? Why is that such a serious concern?
- In verses 7–9, what does Paul say connects Abraham, faith, and belonging to God's family? What does that mean for who God's people are today?
- According to verses 10–12, what happens when someone tries to rely on the law to be made right with God? Why can't the law give life?
- Verse 13 says Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. What does that tell us about what Jesus stepped into for us and what He rescued us from?
- In verses 15–18, why does Paul spend time explaining that God's promise came before the law? What does that help us understand about how salvation works?
- Verses 23–24 describe the law as a guardian. What was its job, and how was it meant to lead people to Christ?
- In verses 26–29, what new identity do believers receive through faith in Jesus? How should that shape the way we see ourselves and treat one another?

BRIDGE QUESTION

Based on this passage, what kinds of responses does it invite? What direction does it point our lives toward?

LOOK FORWARD – Application & Mission (~25%)

→ Inside Me

- Where do I need to bring my sin into the light instead of hiding it?
- What is one concrete step of obedience I can take this week to pursue Jesus in that area?

→ Who Else?

- Who might need encouragement that grace is real and change is possible?
- How can I move toward them with love and truth this week?

→ Pray Together

- Pray for clarity to see Jesus more clearly and follow Him faithfully.
- Pray for strength to resist anything that competes for our allegiance and next steps.
- Pray for courage and grace to take the next faithful step that God is inviting us into.