



Session 4: Background of the Letter to the Galatians

READ:

Acts 13–14; Galatians 1:1-10

CONNECT: My Original Faith Community

What was the community or context in which you came to faith in Christ and grew in your relationship with him? Describe some of its characteristics.

WATCH: Background of the Letter to the Galatians

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

Which chapters of Acts summarize Paul's first missionary journey?

What two problems affected the churches in the region of Galatia?

"It's important to realize that the Jewish tradition of requiring all Gentile converts to be circumcised went _____ these Old Testament teachings."

What are three ways Paul believed that requiring circumcision reflected a misunderstanding of the Christian Faith:

1.

2.

3.

Paul insisted that the only substantial division among people was whether they were a part of the _____ in _____ or not.

DISCUSS

- What is something that stood out to you from the video?
- List some of the dearly held traditions of your faith community.
 - Which of these are specifically taught in Scripture?
 - Which ones are community standards that may be wise or helpful but are not specifically commanded in Scripture?
- According to the video, why does Paul say, “If you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you” (Galatians 5:2)?
- What are the sources of division among Christians in your community right now?
- What does the teaching in this lesson about unity in the church make you think about this disunity?

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Divine Judgment

- Describe the tone of Jesus’ warnings in Matthew 18:6-7 and Matthew 23:13-15.
- What common characteristics do you see between the teachers of the law Jesus describes in Mark 12:38-40 and the teachers Paul describes in Galatians 6:12-13?
- What arguments does Paul use in Galatians 6:7-9 to impress upon the believers their personal responsibility?

APPLY:

- In Galatians 3:3 Paul writes, “Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” In what ways do you rely on yourself and your actions to please God?
- Choose someone on the other side of a divisive issue and pray for God’s peace and mercy to be upon them (Galatians 6:15-16). If God brings to your mind practical steps you can take to close the gap in your fellowship with them, do it.
- How has this study clarified your understanding of the sufficiency of Christ?
- Where has it challenged you? What do you want to do as a result?