

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**THE LAW'S POWERFUL PURPOSE**

Galatians 3:15-29

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: HOW ABOUT A MARRIAGE CONTRACT?**

Remember the fact that we, the church, are the Bride of Christ?

See 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:25-27.

How come Jesus has not given us a marriage contract?

What is the difference between a contract and a promise?

Look at Gal. 3:15-18.

God promised to bless the entire world through the descendent of Abraham (Jesus).

Look at Genesis 22:17-18.

Note that in Gen. 22:17, the first use of the word "seed" is obviously plural, but the second time God states "...and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies."

Most English language translations miss the point God was making. They use the words "shall possess the gate of their enemies", but the original language is singular, "his enemies".

Note how the Apostle catches that in Gal. 3:16.

Since God made a promise, what contract agreement is there with us?

Can any contract enforce agape love? (unconditional love?)

If God loves me, what can I do to earn a relationship with Him?

What does verse 19 say about the (Mosaic) Law being a contract. What is the purpose of a mediator in contract negotiations.

Now look at v. 20. Did God's promise involve a negotiation? or was it unilateral?

What mediator is required to make a loving, unconditional promise?

NOTE: Do not get confused here with Jesus being the Mediator between God and Man (1 Tim. 2:5). That is not the point of the Galatians passage.

Jesus is not the mediator of a promise – He IS the promise.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: SO, WHY DID GOD GIVE THE LAW?**

What does Gal. 3:21 say about the Law?

Is the Law bad?

Does it teach something that disagrees with God's love?

What did God intend the Law to do? Read Gal. 3:22-24.

Think of some examples, like: "You shall not covet."

How does the Law keep us from feeling self-righteous?

What does Gal. 3:24 say about the purpose of the Law?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: SO, I HAVE SINNED, NOW WHAT?**

What is the point of Gal. 3:26?

What is the role of "faith" (trust)?

How does this explain v. 25?

If you have the opportunity to explain forgiveness of sin to a friend, what verses about faith would you use? (By the way, try a Google search.) How about Colossians 1:13-14, or Eph. 1:7?

What are some of God's promises about being forgiven? Consider Acts 10:43 or Rom. 6:23. What are some others?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: HOW DOES GOD EXPECT ME TO LIVE MY LIFE?**

Think on, ponder, Gal. 3:26-29.

What are some of the ideas here about God's family?

How about if I just want to live my own life without relating to others?

How does divisiveness fit into the Christian life?

In what ways do I need to change with God's help?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Pray for the new home groups starting up soon, especially the leaders.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.