

DISCUSSION IDEAS
SEVERED FROM CHRIST

Galatians 5:1-12

October 30th, 2016

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ISSUES: Becoming like Jesus, and the problem with Legalism.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: LIFE BY RULES.**

Read Gal. 5:1-12, looking for the central thought in the passage.

(Keep in mind that the "circumcision" addressed here has nothing to do with today's medical procedure. It refers to the religious ritual required of a man to place himself under Judaism.)

In this context, what does it mean that we have been set free?

What was the "yoke of slavery"?

What does it mean that someone would be obligated to keep the whole law (v. 3)?

Review the following verses to comparing obedience to rules (our own efforts) to earn God's favour with trusting in Jesus's gift to us.

Rom 3:19-28, Eph. 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-5.

How does trying to earn God's forgiveness "sever" us from Christ (v. 4)?

In what way would Christ "become of no advantage" to you?

What is the difference between trying to earn salvation by following rules, and obedience to God's commands as part of Spiritual growth?

What attitudes on our part will cut us off from experiencing the power of God in our lives?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: CAN ANYTHING CUT US OFF FROM GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES?**

How do we receive power to obey God? Review Rom. 8:9-15 and Eph. 3:14-19.

If we refuse to trust in God's Holy Spirit, how can we grow to be the kind of people He wants?

So what does Gal 5:4 state about this?

Here are two vivid illustrations:

If Believers try to earn forgiveness for sins by their own efforts, they will be like slaves who had been adopted as sons. Their father is excited to give them a new life. He has all the resources they need to get an education, to travel, to pursue their interests, to have families of their own and so on. But after being adopted and enjoying the blessings of sonship in their father's house, the sons return to the slaves' quarters, put the shackles back on and live once again as slaves. They remain sons. The father's resources remain available to them. BUT, by choosing to relate to their father as slaves they forfeit the new lives they could have had.

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or

You are taking a fun ride in an airplane, enjoying the beautiful views. You think, "This would be more fun if I did not have to depend on a machine." So you jump out and start flapping your arms – oooooops!

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: GOD'S GOAL IS NOT SIMPLY THAT WE GO TO HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE.**

Really?

In Gal. 1:3-4, from what does Jesus deliver us?

Look at Gal. 5:5-6. What is the "hope of righteousness"?

Answer this by the context. What does v. 6 give as the reason we can have this hope?

Note that it is not just based on "faith", but what? "Faith working through..." what?

What was Jesus command in John 13:34–35?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

Read Luke 6:27-35 and Matt. 5:28-38. If we want to be like Jesus, what kind of "love" we are to demonstrate to the world?

How can our lives affect those who are resistant to God?

Think about the statements:

"We tend to love things and use people, but God wants us to love people and use things."

"We are to reach the world through attraction, not promotion."

Dwell on the relationship between what Jesus said in Matt. 16:24 with Matt. 11:28-40.

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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.

Thank God for the encouragement for Benders and Ingvaldstads as the Cuyunan church grows. 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.