

Group/Individual Study

Series: "Be Free" - Getting past "in Between"

Passages: Galatians 6:9-16

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 4/9

1. The Galatian believers had started their faith journey in awe of the wonder of God's grace and unconditional love. Over time, though, they replaced freedom and joy with man-made religious requirements till what was left was oppressive and cold. Read Galatians 6:9-10. Why do you think rules-driven imitations of genuine Christian life tend to lead to "growing weary in doing good"?
2. Have you ever felt unconditionally loved and accepted by another human being? What type of feelings did it engender in you? What type of actions? How might turning this corner with God change how people live for Him?
3. Have you ever felt that someone only loved or valued you if you did certain things in an excellent way? How does your heart respond to this? Have you ever found yourself living as if God operated this way? What helps you re-embrace God's true nature as the God of grace and undeserved love?
4. Some believers fear that preaching grace will lead to people throwing off all restraint and living however they want to. The New Testament seems to teach that the opposite is actually the case. Why does the freedom of unconditional love lead to deeper life change over time than do human efforts to "be good" and "make God love me"?
5. Comment on the following quote from Steve Brown's book, A Scandalous Freedom :
"The good news is that Christ frees us from the need to obnoxiously focus on our goodness, our commitment, and our correctness. Religion has made us obsessive almost beyond endurance. Jesus invited us to a dance...and we've turned in into a march of soldiers, always checking to see if we're doing it right and are in step and in line with the other soldiers. We know a dance would be more fun, but we believe we must go through hell to get to heaven, so we keep marching."
Take time to thank God for the irrevocable love He gives us, so freely, and without limit.