

ONLY ONE GOSPEL – EXPLORING GALATIANS

Talk 8 – Gal 6 – May our only boast be in the cross of Christ

Small group questions

Leaders – Choose *some* from the following. Don't feel the need to work through each one!

If the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer,
please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

Can you share a time when you struggled with self-boasting or pride? How did you come to realize your need to humble yourself?

Read Galatians 6.

Not us

1. Reflecting on Galatians 6:1-5, how can we balance the need to restore those caught in sin with the danger of becoming conceited or judgmental?
2. What does it mean to "restore someone gently"? Can you share of a time when you did this?
3. How does the concept of "carrying each other's burdens" (v.2) play out in your life and relationships? What are practical steps we can take to carry each other's burdens?
4. How does the phrase "think of yourself less often" resonate with you? What practices help you cultivate humility?
5. Can you share a time when you had to confront your own self-importance? What was that experience like?

Not in box ticking

6. In what areas of your life are you tempted to "tick boxes" or seek recognition?
7. What are some examples of "box-ticking" in modern Christian practice?
8. Why is it tempting to avoid the message of the cross and focus on good deeds instead?
9. How can we ensure our faith is not reduced to merely checking off religious duties?
10. What does it mean to "sow to please the Spirit"?
11. "Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but what counts is the new creation" (Galatians 6:15). What are the implications for us?

But only in the cross of Christ

12. What does it mean to you to boast only in the cross of Christ? How can you express that boast in your daily life?
13. How has the cross of Christ transformed your understanding of salvation and grace? Can you share a personal experience or insight?
14. How does the cross of Christ redefine our identity and priorities?
15. In what ways does recognizing our dependence on God's mercy change how we live and interact with the world?

Prayer idea: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the powerful message from Galatians 6 that reminds us where our true boast should lie. Lord, we confess that we often get caught up in focusing on ourselves, seeking validation from others, and ticking off religious boxes without truly connecting with You. Forgive us for our pride and our tendency to look away from the cross. May our only boast be in Jesus' love and grace that saved us. Teach us to walk in humility, to carry each other's burdens, and to restore others gently as You have instructed us. May the cross of Christ be our greatest joy and our only boast, guiding our actions and our hearts each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Some additional (bonus/optional) questions arising from the whole series

1. How has the Galatians series influenced/changed/deepened/sharpened your understanding of the gospel?
2. What are the key takeaways from this series that you want to ensure you remember?

Notes on Specific Questions

Not Us

1. **Balancing Restoration and Humility:** Emphasize the importance of approaching others with a spirit of gentleness and humility. Share examples if possible.
2. **Restoring Gently:** Encourage sharing personal experiences where they helped someone or were helped gently.
3. **Carrying Burdens:** Discuss practical ways to support each other, such as through prayer, listening, and practical help.
4. **Cultivating Humility:** Talk about daily practices that can help, such as regular prayer, self-reflection, and serving others.
5. **Confronting Self-Importance:** Sharing personal stories can help make this concept more relatable.

Not in Box Ticking

6. **Temptations to Tick Boxes:** Reflect on areas where members might be seeking recognition and discuss why this might happen.
7. **Modern Box-Ticking Examples:** Identify common practices in church and personal life that might fall into this category.
8. **Avoiding the Cross:** Discuss why focusing on the cross can be challenging and how to overcome this temptation.
9. **Ensuring Genuine Faith:** Talk about ways to maintain a sincere and deep connection with God beyond rituals.
10. **Pleasing the Spirit:** Explore what it means to live a life led by the Spirit, including practical examples.
11. **Implications of New Creation:** Reflect on the transformative power of being a new creation in Christ.

But Only in the Cross of Christ

12. **Boasting in the Cross:** Discuss ways to keep the focus on Christ's sacrifice in daily life.
13. **Transformation through the Cross:** Encourage sharing of personal stories of how understanding the cross has impacted their lives.
14. **Redefining Identity and Priorities:** Talk about how recognizing our identity in Christ changes our priorities and actions.
15. **Dependence on God's Mercy:** Reflect on how realizing our dependence on God changes our interactions and decisions.