

Home Group Reading for October 22-29

Gal. 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For you are all children[m] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile,[o] slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children[p] of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Excerpts

“It was really the Christians who were the worst. It was really just sad to see this critical display of judgment from Christians... I think it’s really insane that we live in a time where people still judge a book by its cover. I wasn’t aware that there’s a uniform that you’re supposed to wear once you give your heart to Jesus.” Kat Von D on her public conversion to Christianity and the backlash she received

“If someone tells me that they’re going to treat me as a man and ignore my femininity, is that supposed to be a compliment? How much more powerful (and empowering) is it to say, “I see your femininity, I don’t want you to act like a man. I see your race, your social status, I see you.” The power of being “in-Christ” is not that our differences disappear, but that our identity and value is not in these AND that since our identity does not rest on these traits, we do not use our distinction as a means to oppress or belittle others. A Christ-centric community has the commonality of Jesus – He is the common denominator. It is a powerful statement when polar opposites hang out together because they are a testament to their shared Christ-denominator which launches them into relating to one another “in Christ” as a family instead of through our lenses of distinction.” Connie Nicholson

Reflection Questions

1. What other “boundaries”/lines do we sub/consciously draw between Christians that create a false gospel beyond grace alone?
2. What kind of people are likely to sit together at a table in the Church today? Based on that, suggest a re-write of Gal. 3:28 that Paul might say to the Church in 2023.
3. What are some ways that Christians divide and distinguish themselves from others in the church in 2023? What groups of people are commonly seen as inferior?
4. What steps can you/we take individually and as a church to root more deeply in our identity in Christ?
5. What steps can we take to give more dignity to those in our community who feel on the inferior side of question 2?