

Home Group Reading for October 30 – November 5

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the **present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father. Gal. 1:3-4

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a **new creation**: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Cor. 5:17 (NSRV)

It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a **new creation**. 16 May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God. Galatians 6:15-16

Excerpts from Message

"In the present evil age, law reigns, not grace. A variety of laws and standards measure people's status and worth: religious law, economic law, the law of merit, honour codes, and social, gender, and ethnic categories." Mark Baker

"The present evil age is fueled by shame. Shame is the air we breathe in the present evil age. It's always a by-product of bounded group thinking."

"The work on the cross is the catalyst that frees us from the present evil age and beckons us into new creation community."

"In this verse (6:15) Paul is saying, bounded-church lines, whatever their content, are not important, what matters is living out an in-Christ, centered approach. God's action through Jesus Christ has freed the Galatians from the former and provides the possibility of living together in a totally new way." Mark Baker

Reflection Questions

1. We discussed what some of the bounded lines are that Grassroots Church has inadvertently created over time. How did this conversation make you feel? Do you have any to add?
2. What are some new creation realities you have experienced or observed?
3. What other characteristics/traits come to mind when you think of "this present evil age"?
4. What other characteristics/traits come to mind when you think of "new creation"?