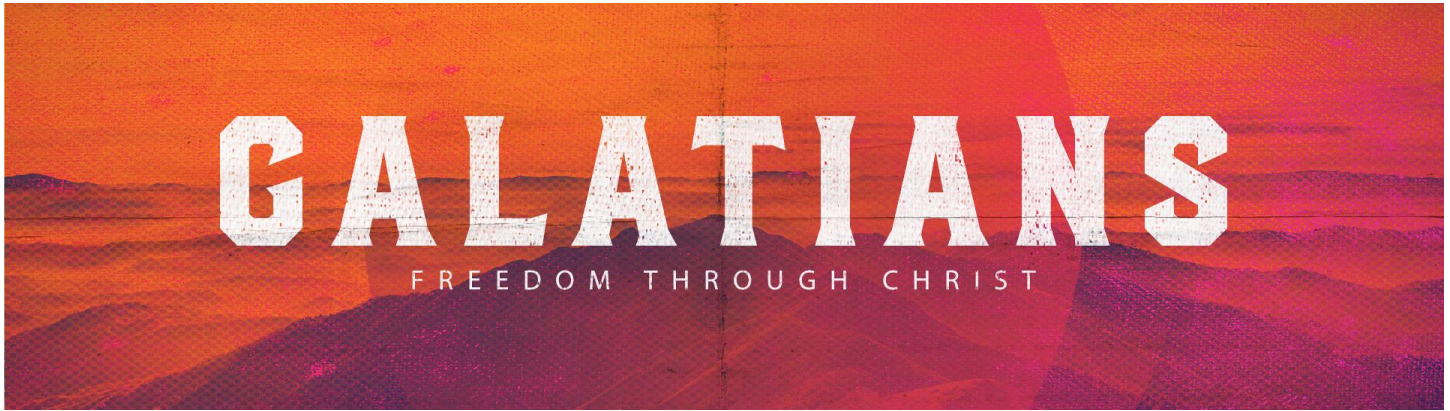


Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 5/03/26 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES -

Galatians 2:8 For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.⁹ James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.¹⁰ All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

¹¹When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

John 12:42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

Others: Romans 6, Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 3:5-7

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

1. In Galatians 2, Peter switched tables when the "important people" arrived. Can you relate that to a group of people that you may have been tempted to change your Gospel convictions just to be accepted?
2. The leaders in John 8 relied on being "Abraham's children." What "spiritual pedigree" (your service, your upbringing, your knowledge, other perception of your home life?) Are you tempted to use as a shield to keep people from seeing your need for grace?
3. How can our "good" qualities—like how much we know about the Bible or how long we've been members, or how much we give or serve—actually become a barrier to genuine community? How do we make sure our "pedigree" isn't stopping us from admitting we still need the same Grace as a person just getting started in their journey with God?
4. If we truly believe that "the Truth sets us free" (John 8:32), why is it so much easier to gossip than to have a Paul-and-Peter conversation? What would it look like for this specific group to become a place where we "wound" each other with Truth rather than "killing" each other with silence?
5. Look at this group right now, whether we are at a "table" like Peter was or just in the same room, the question remains: Are we sitting here Acting? Do we have the right Gospel "MATH" Jesus plus me acting religious?.. Do we need to lay down the burden of acting today in any way? Take a moment and if you can be so bold then share your thoughts with the group. Be sure to pause and pray also for us as a church, we don't want to be a place that has our Math wrong

Jesus + Nothing = Freedom

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS