

March 6, 2011

WPS Small Group Questions

“Hyper Real Christianity”

Galatians 2:20 - 3:6

- Please read *Galatians 2:20 - 3:6* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

Hyper Real Christianity

In Galatians 3:1-6, we see that Paul despairs that the Galatians have come under the spell of false teaching. The Galatians had an image in their mind of what Christianity should be and were swayed by stories and ideas. They had a “hyper-real” image of Christianity.

- What is “hyper-reality”?
- What expectations/rules were the Galatians adding which created a “hyper-real” Gospel?
- How have you seen the media (tv, magazines, advertisements, ect.) portray a “hyper-real,” over exaggerated way of living?
- Are there any expectations portrayed by the media that you feel you need to live up to?

Just as the Galatians had a hyper-real image of the Gospel, Christians today often have unrealistic expectations of what following Christ looks like.

- What does the Bible say a life following Jesus should look like?
 - **Mark 8:34-36** “And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he [Jesus] said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”
 - **Luke 12:33** “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.”
- As Christians, how is our treasure different from what the world treasures?

- How have you seen Christians today distort the Gospel in order to meet expectations portrayed by our society?

Paul asks four questions in Galatians 3:1-6 aimed to remind the Galatians how they first came to know Christ. In the same way, we can return to a heart set on God by remembering what Christ has done for us.

- When did the Gospel first become real to you?
- In what ways have you been changed by God since becoming a Christian?
- Where would you be without saving faith in Christ?

In asking these questions, Paul implies that it is God who works in us and without him we can not change.

- How do we break this cycle of believing and chasing after the false, hyper-real image?
 - **Galatians 2:20** *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*