

Grace and race in Galatia 1: How Then Shall We Live?

discussion guide based on **Galatians 1** (linked to sermon of 7/5/23)

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/galatians

Encourage the group to use the link from the Church website above to listen to all of Galatians before the group meets.

Q) Last Christmas, I received several Happy Christmas greetings on Christmas day from families, all wearing matching Pyjamas, including the dog! Has your family or friends ever had a tradition or item of clothing that marked you out as a group?

Read Galatians 1

Q) How do you determine if a preacher is trustworthy?

Q) How would these apply to Paul and Paul's opponents?

Q) In what ways would you agree or disagree with v3 that we are in a 'present evil age'? In what ways would you explain to someone that Jesus has freed you and all creation from this?

Jews believed that when the Messiah came he would be Lord of all the world; so, Paul argues, the Messiah would have to have just one family. So, although this family is the fulfillment of what God had promised to the Jews, because of Jesus you don't have to be a Jew to belong. Paul's opponents insisted that if Gentile believers wanted to be part of the real inner circle, they had to become Jews. The "good news" according to his opponents was that you're welcome into God's family if you follow the Law of Moses.

Q) Why do you think people are attracted to a faith based on the Law or doing the 'right thing'?

Q) Have you been aware of times when you've found yourself drawn to thinking you must be doing things or behaving in certain ways to be a Christian?

Q) Are there any issues in our local congregation that separate different cultures or make people feel they must adopt a different behaviour to be accepted? What could be done to change this?

Q) How would you answer the question, How then shall we live?

Q) What has particularly struck you from the passage or discussion?

Q) Are there any steps you would like to make based on the answers to the questions above?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for each other and the church as we explore Galatians. Pray that we will grow in Faith.