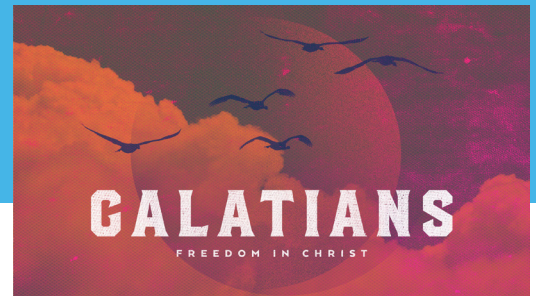


# Discussion Questions

February 8, 2026



## A New Way to Be Human - Galatians 6:11–18

In this series launch of the book of Galatians, we started at the end of Paul's letter - the only place where he grabs the pen and writes in large letters with his own hand - to hear his urgent summary of the whole argument of the letter. Paul exposes how even sincere, well-argued religion can quietly replace the sufficiency of Christ with human effort, using circumcision as an "Insurance Policy" for social safety and divine approval. His answer is the Cross: when we are united with Christ, we die, and the world's system of earning, performing, and proving ourselves has no authority over a dead person. But we don't stay dead. We rise as a "New Creation." Not just individually saved, but part of a new humanity where ancient walls of tribe, politics, and status lose their power, and where heaven begins invading earth right now. Paul closes by showing his scars, proof that he traded safety for faithfulness, and then calls even these wayward Galatians "brothers and sisters," ending with grace.

1. Read Galatians 6:11–18 aloud together. In verse 12, Paul says the false teachers want to "look good" and "avoid persecution." These weren't villains, they had Scripture, centuries of tradition, and real fear of Roman retaliation on their side. How does understanding their sincerity and fear change how you see them? Does it make their error more or less dangerous?
2. The sermon described how we use religion as an "Insurance Policy" in two ways. Socially (saying the right things, nodding at the right times to stay in our tribe) and spiritually (treating our good behavior as something that obligates God to bless us). Which of those two traps are you more susceptible to? Can you think of a specific example?
3. Read verse 14 again. Paul says the world was crucified to him and he to the world. The sermon compared this to bringing a dead man's traffic fine to the clerk. The law has no authority over a corpse. How does viewing yourself as "dead" to the world's system change how you handle criticism, pressure to perform, or the need for approval?
4. In verse 15, Paul says the only thing that counts is being "transformed into a new creation." For a Jewish man raised in a world where some rabbis taught Gentiles were created as fuel for hell, this was an explosion, not a minor adjustment. Read Isaiah 65:17 & 25 alongside this verse. How does connecting "New Creation" to Isaiah's cosmic vision expand it beyond just "me getting saved"?
5. Paul says in verse 16 that this New Creation community, "the Israel of God," is defined by faith, not bloodline. The sermon asked what "passport checks" we use today to decide who's really "in." What are some of the markers, political, cultural, denominational, that you've seen function as unofficial requirements for belonging? Where is the line between holding to essential gospel truths and imposing secondary preferences?

6. Look at the contrast in verse 17. The false teachers wanted the Galatians to receive a mark (circumcision) that kept them safe and comfortable. Paul points to his scars, marks that prove he is not safe. What is one area of your life where you're currently tempted to choose safety or comfort over faithfulness?
  
7. The Dead Man Test: The sermon challenged us to catch ourselves this week when we feel a spike of defensiveness, anxiety, or offense, and ask: "Who is this hurting, the New Creation, or the Old Ego?" Can you share a recent moment where your old ego "climbed out of the coffin"? What would it have looked like to let the dead man stay dead?
  
8. The Kingdom Table: The second challenge was to share a meal or coffee or good conversation with someone outside your tribe, someone who votes, lives, or believes differently, without debating or fixing them. Who comes to mind? And be honest: what is the fear or objection that immediately surfaces when you think about doing it?

**Galatians 6:11-17 (NLT)**

Notice what large letters I use as I write these closing words in my own handwriting. Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised want to look good to others. They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save. And even those who advocate circumcision don't keep the whole law themselves. They only want you to be circumcised so they can boast about it and claim you as their disciples.

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died. It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God. From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus.

**Galatians 6:11 (NLT)**

NOTICE WHAT LARGE LETTERS I USE AS I WRITE THESE CLOSING WORDS IN MY OWN HANDWRITING.

**Galatians 1:6 (NLT)**

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ.

**Galatians 6:12 (NLT)**

Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised want to look good to others. They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save.

**Jesus + Circumcision = Salvation & Security****Galatians 6:13 (NLT)**

And even those who advocate circumcision don't keep the whole law themselves. They only want you to be circumcised so they can boast about it and claim you as their disciples.

**Galatians 6:14 (NLT)**

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died.

**Paul says two things happened on the cross:**

**The world was crucified to me and I was crucified to the world.**

**The OLD way says...**

I'm hurt, so I MUST defend myself or I'll be destroyed

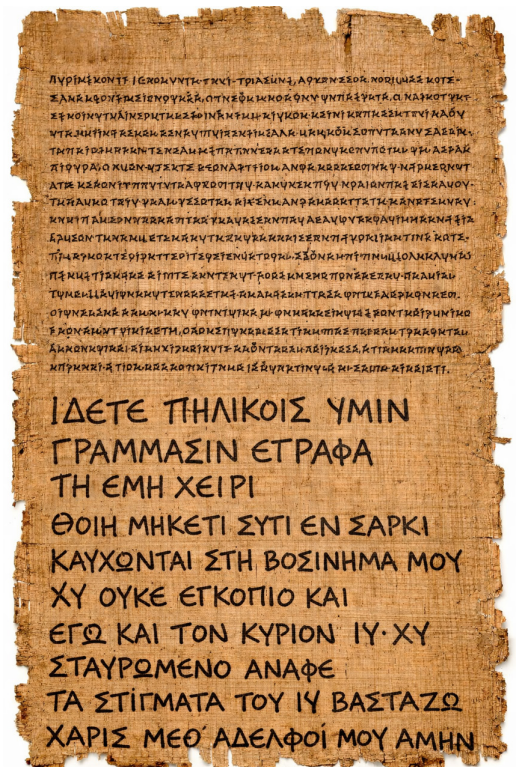
I need to perform or hustle to fix this feeling

**The world has no hooks in a corpse**

**The NEW way says...**

I'm hurt, but my identity is secure in Christ

I can feel this and take it to the Father instead of demanding the world pay me back



**Galatians 6:15 (NLT)**

*It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation.*

**Isaiah 65:17,25 (NLT)**

*Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth...*

*The wolf and the lamb will feed together...*

*In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed*

**Galatians 6:16 (NLT)**

*May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.*

**Galatians 6:2 (NLT)**

*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*

**Galatians 6:17 (NLT)**

*From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus.*

**Galatians 6:18 (NLT)**

*Dear brothers and sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

**Two ways to live out being a New Creation****1. The "DEAD MAN" Test**

Catch yourself in the moment when you feel a spike of anxiety, defensiveness, taking offense..

Ask: "Who is this hurting... the New Creation, or the Old Ego?"

**2. Practice "New Creation Hospitality"**

Find someone who is NOT in your tribe and get to know them & their story

Don't debate them

Don't try to fix them

Just treat them with the dignity of a future brother or sister

**Grace isn't the reward for living this way**

**Grace is the power to live this way**