

Galatians 6: 11-18: Handout

Read Galatians 6:11-18

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

- In 6:11-12 Why does Paul state, “see with what large letters...”? Why is this important?
- Consider what Paul writes about his opponents here.
 - What do you think Paul means when he says, “[they] want to make a good showing in the flesh”? What is their motivation and what are they trying to avoid?
 - Do you find an irony that their ‘religious’ pressure for circumcision is motivated by human pressure? Do you think this is common today? That religious action is motivated by concern for things in the world, human things, and not over concern for God?
 - Are there aspects of your faith walk that are motivated by the concern for the approval or persecution of other people and not by your relationship with God?
- Read verse 15 again. If circumcision and uncircumcision both count for nothing, what counts? Are there things that “count for nothing” upon which you are placing too much importance concerning your Christian walk or community life at Hope?
- Read Romans 12:2. Define and contrast conforming & transforming.
 - How do you see the contrast of conforming and transforming in this passage? Do you think the agitators were interested in transformation?
 - Do you think conforming is limited to what happens to us outside of Christian culture? Are there aspects of Christianity that are conforming you to a “Christian cultural norm”?
 - Are you conforming or being transformed by the Holy Spirit?
- How does verse 14 challenge you? What does it mean to have the world crucified to me and vice versa?

“Now that we have seen ... Christ crucified as our sin-bearer, we do not care what the world thinks of us or does to us.” - John Stott

- Circumcision or uncircumcision doesn’t matter. Rituals don’t matter. How does being a new creation matter in your life today?
- What are the marks of Jesus on Paul? What are the marks of Jesus that you bear?
- What is our community application of this passage?