



LEADERS GUIDE: 1/8/17 | THIS CHANGES LIVES PART 1

1. Galatians 3:24 highlights the believer's basis of change. What are some of the specific ways your life has been changed as the gospel has become more clear to you?

-Because we have been justified by faith, we live life under a new identity through Jesus Christ. Those who were once guilty have been declared innocent. This change in title also comes with a change in actions. What are some things that have changed in your life since you became a Christian? Perhaps sinful habits that have gone away or become less controlling? Hostility towards an individual which you have now forgiven? Affections which have grown in regards to church, devotions, worship...etc. If your group talks about any change, take heart! The only way we experience true change is through Jesus, and this is something to celebrate (Phil. 2:13)/

2. How did the sermon help combat the idea that Christianity is about rule-keeping? How would you explain justification to an unbeliever?

-Christianity is about rule keeping, Jesus kept all the rules! And because he did we receive the promise which the rules guarded: life with God. This process is called justification (a legal term meaning to be declared "just"). When we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, we receive his righteousness and he receives our just punishment: death on the cross. Justification is when our faith cloaks us in Christ's righteousness so that God sees us as innocent and announces us to be made just in regards to his perfect rules (See Romans 8:3-5). This is what allows us to have life and peace with God instead of punishment and wrath through sin. This is an important concept to understand and communicate since justification is the basis of our salvation!

3. In Galatians 3:27, Paul says that believers have already "put on Christ." When you think of the commands to live like Christ, how are these a blessing rather than a burden (Philippians 3:7-11)?

-God's commands are always for our good. It isn't a burden for us to pursue a life which leads to peace, comfort and a better relationship with God. To see Jesus commands as a burden is to miss the foolishness of living a life outside of God's plan for us. Sin will never bring us what we want or desire. It is only God's promise through faith in Jesus Christ which satisfies our soul. When we understand this we can view our sanctification (change) as something which brings us more joy than we could have ever imagined.