



Sermon Questions

Date: *November 26, 2023* | Scripture: *Galatians 6:11-18*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. What are the things you boast in? Where do you root your confidence?
3. Here at the end of the letter, Paul takes the pen from his scribe to write a personal note with his own hand. Why might this closing passage be so personal for Paul?
4. What hope do we have in the Bible's promise of new creation? Where else do we see new creation mentioned in the Bible? What part of new creation fills you with hope?
5. Why is it significant that Paul boasts specifically in the cross of Christ—not just in Christ, but in his cross?
6. This is our last sermon in our series on Galatians. What have been some of your big takeaways from this series?

Inward Grace in Action

Paul closes his letter by drawing attention to “the marks of Jesus” he bears on his body. These are literal scars gained as a result of the beatings he’s received for preaching the gospel. To anyone in the world, these scars would be a huge source of shame. They indicate he’s broken the social order and has suffered the consequences. To Paul, however, his scars are a source of boasting because they testify his union with Christ. There is nothing more valuable to him.

As a Christian, you will inevitably experience shame from the world. You will feel the pressure to hide your faith, to deny the cross of Jesus, to use other people to save our own skin, to conform to the “way of the flesh.” And when you refuse, the world will strike back. You will bear the marks of Jesus in your own life. Every Christian bears the marks of Jesus in their life. What are they for you? Maybe it’s a lonely four years in high school because you refused to go along with what your classmates were doing. Maybe it’s a scarred reputation for confessing a sin you could’ve gotten away with. Maybe it’s losing a best friend for confronting them about their sin. The world will see these things and mock you, but do not let the world trick you into covering up your scars. The Bible gives us several pictures of the resurrected Jesus in all his glory, and the amazing thing is, he still bears his own scars. They’re no longer a source of pain or shame. They are a constant proclamation of his glorious love; he wears them like a trophy. Our scars are just the same. Wear them proudly; share your story boldly; your marks of Jesus are your glory and your witness.

- What are the marks of Jesus in your own life? How have you suffered for the gospel?
- How have you failed to suffer for the gospel and lived instead according to the flesh?
- What do you think Jesus thinks of your scars (or even your lack thereof?)

ACTION: Encourage each other this week to boast in the cross and to wear your scars with pride.