

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of June 4, 2017

**This Week's Focus:** The gospel teaches us that we are not justified (declared righteous) by God on the basis of our works, but through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ; and the evidence of a changed heart is love for God and others.

**This Week's Text:** Galatians 1:1-9, 5:16-24

"He who wants to be a true Christian or to belong to the kingdom of Christ must be truly a believer. But he does not truly believe if works of love do not follow his faith." **Martin Luther**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How does Paul open his letter to the churches of Galatia? (Reference 1:1-5) What does he offer as his credentials as an Apostle?
- What is Paul's purpose for writing his letter? (Reference 1:6-7) What false gospel were the Galatians adopting?
- In Scripture, God's law is typically categorized in three ways: ceremonial, civic, and moral. Define each. Who were the Judaizers, and what false teaching were they spreading about God's moral law and justification?
- Martin Luther famously stated that "religion is the default mode of the human heart." What is the difference between human religion and the gospel? Why are we prone to self-righteous, rule-keeping rather than relying on the merit of Christ's righteousness?
- Have you experienced the crippling effect of relying on your moral performance for favor with God? (Reference Galatians 3:10) Discuss how faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ is the basis of our forgiveness, righteousness, and freedom from sin and the curse of the law. (Reference Galatians 2:16)
- What does Paul mean that we are no longer "under the law"? (Reference Galatians 5:18, Romans 6:15) As Christians are we still obligated to obey God's moral law? Read Galatians 5:1-6, 13 and discuss how obedience to the law – evidenced by love for God and others – is a response to God's grace.

- Why does Paul refer to the list of Spirit-granted virtues as a single fruit? Why is it important that the fruit of the Spirit be internalized? Do you trust in the Spirit's progressive work even when it isn't immediately measurable?
- Use the following three statements to answer the question, how do we grow in the fruit of the Spirit?
  - Understand that there's a problem. (Reference Galatians 5:16,18)
  - Crucify the flesh.
  - Know you belong.