



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of June 23, 2019

This Week's Focus: Justification by faith alone in Christ alone is both the legal declaration "not guilty", and a change in our identity; through Christ, we have become the deeply and dearly loved children of God.

This Week's Text: Galatians 3:26-4:7

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." **1 John 3:1a**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has this passage realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- What is the new identity that believers have through faith alone in Christ alone? What is baptism, and how does it serve as both a picture and proclamation of a Christian's union with Jesus (verse 27)? Is Paul advocating for baptismal regeneration – that baptism along with faith is necessary for salvation?
- What imagery is Paul employing with the phrase "have put on Christ"? Along with our new status as children of God, what also changes about us when we embrace Jesus? What point is Paul stressing in verse 28? What implications does the gospel have on the way we relate with other redeemed children of God? Discuss how our shared *unity* in Christ does not mean *uniformity*.
- Briefly recount Paul's illustration and what it reveals about the human condition, the nature of God, and the means of our adoption? What were the "elementary principles" of the world that formerly enslaved you before your justification by faith alone in Christ alone?
- Discuss the ways Jesus alone was uniquely qualified to procure our justification and adoption (4:4-5). What role does the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) play in our redemption and adoption?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us to experience and enjoy the reality of our new identity as God's deeply and dearly loved child? What are some reasons we don't feel like we are children of God? What are the means that the Holy Spirit uses to overcome our insecurities and reassure us of our sonship?
- Is the Holy Spirit leading you to declare and demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ to someone you know? Is he leading you to bring the good news of the gospel to another area of the world?