

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Galatians: Jesus + Nothing - Part 3

Mark Purser

Introduction

Have you ever felt a sense of being excluded? Do you recall being on the outer of a larger group for reasons beyond your control? Noone wants to be in this situation. We like to fit in and be included with the crowd. Yet how often, as an accepted part of a group, do we look out for and seek to include those on the outside? This is a challenge for us all - to love one another with all our differences and to show the love of Jesus to all people. We are one in Christ and we need to live in a way that shows this reality.

Read

Galatians 3:26-28

Discuss

1. Have you ever felt excluded or singled out in a larger group and made to feel like you didn't belong? How did this moment feel for you? What could have been done differently to change the situation?
2. Who are the marginalised groups in our society today? Why might this be the case for these groups of people? How could this be changed?
3. Read Galatians 3:26-28. What does it mean to be "one in Jesus"? How does this verse allow for diversity?
4. What might we do that could cause division with others? What can we do to be inclusive of those who are different to us?
5. Why might we put class labels on other people? What might we seek to achieve in doing this? What does it actually achieve?
6. What scripture verses can you find that emphasise the need to seek out and love the marginalised? Why are we called to treat everyone with love and respect?

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Respond

Jesus often went out of His way to stand up for marginalised people. He would intentionally seek out those who were shunned by the wider society. We saw this when He met the woman at the well, Zaccheus the tax collector, and with the ten lepers, to just name a few. With every person Jesus met, He made them feel loved, seen and that their lives truly mattered.

Who is an outsider in your world to whom you could show God's love today?
What can you do to show God's love to this person this week?