

Reflection Questions: Galatians 6:14

For the message, "Boasting in the Cross of Christ" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 20, 2018

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Scripture Text: Galatians 6:14 - "Far be it from me to boast in anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...."

Also, let's reflect on these verses from the Apostle Paul's own life:

- 1 Corinthians 15:9 (c. AD 54): "For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
- Ephesians 3:8 (c. AD 62): "Although I am the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given to me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ...."
- 1 Timothy 1:15 (c. AD 64): "Here is a trust worthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst."

A summary of the message: Following Jesus over time should translate into greater and greater levels of appreciation for, rejoicing in, and boasting in the Cross. The message of the Cross is Good News for unbelievers AND believers too!

Key Quotes:

- John Stott: Commenting on the Greek word Paul uses when he says "Far be it from me to boast in anything...", Stott writes, "[The word] means 'to glory in, trust in, rejoice in, revel in, live for. The object of our boast or 'glory' fills our horizons, engrosses our attention, and absorbs our time and energy. In a word, 'our glory' is our obsession."
- Jerry Bridges, "The gospel, applied to our hearts everyday, frees us to be brutally honest with ourselves and with God. We can call sin exactly what it is, regardless of how ugly and shameful it may be, because we know that Jesus bore that sin in His body on the cross. With the assurance of total forgiveness through Christ, we have no reason to hide our sins anymore."
- JI Packer, "There is tremendous relief in know that his love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery about me can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench his determination to bless me."

Bottom Line:

- "Spiritual growth is not about moving on from where we began—the gospel. It's about growing deeper in the gospel. Or rather, getting the gospel deeper into us" (Brian Hedges).

Let's get started...

- What grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus?

- How would my life look differently if I were to really live out the message of this text? In other words, what would it look like on a practical level for you to preach the gospel to yourself?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What would it look like for a community of faith to boast in / glory in / rejoice in the Cross? What would be the vibe of that community?
- What is the cost if we as a community seeking to follow Jesus are not transformed by this text, that is, if we don't boast in the Cross? What is lost? What then becomes the vibe of the community of faith?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?
- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
- _____