**Small Group Talk Sheet**

**Galatians – Week 2: Galatians 1:6-10**

**Dave Wilde**

**Intro –** *One person’s truth can be another person’s lie.*

**Big Idea** – the church has to be very careful about putting expectations on people that aren’t really based in the Bible (no matter how well-meaning they are!).

**Notes**

**Bible Word Study – “apostle”**

**652** **ἀπόστολος** [*apostolos* /ap·**os**·tol·os/] n m. From 649; TDNT 1:407; TDNTA 67; GK 693; 81 occurrences; AV translates as “apostle” 78 times, “messenger” twice, and “he that is sent” once. **1** a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders. 1a specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ. 1b in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers. *1b1* of Barnabas. *1b2* of Timothy and Silvanus.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The word “apostle” simply means “one that is sent”. An apostle is a person who is sent with a message. In this light, the twelve apostles were just the first twelve of an army that has since been sent by Jesus into the world. If a person carries a message, that person has an apostleship that is implied by the very carrying of the message. Paul’s apostleship was not granted by any manmade body. He wasn’t sent by a church to plant other churches. He was sent by God. Today’s church is (or should be) FULL of apostles. We are all sent by Christ as mandated by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). In the first century, this apostle was deemed as an agent that actually represented the person who sent the apostle.

**Small Group Questions: Leader, please read the following questions and give everyone a chance to participate.**

1. Recognizing that all Christians are “sent ones”, what does this look like for you? As you consider this question, think about your work, family, and maybe even the places that you go regularly to shop.

2. Some people are less receptive to the message of Jesus than others. Some of these may be our friends and family. Is it tempting to try to “soften” or “water down” the message of Jesus in order to “help” others to see the gospel clearly or to try to avoid making them angry?

***2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NASB95)***

**1** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

Do you think that believers sometimes “turn away from truth” in order to “be nicer” about the message of the cross? What does this look like?

3. Consider our own church (*please think honestly and critically here!)*. WOCC is very non-traditional, but is there a danger of alienating others with the way that we “do church”?

4. On Sunday, we talked about ways that the church can place expectations on others that can turn them off from “church” (appearance/dress, Bible reading/Christian disciplines, politics, education/theological knowledge, and church attendance/Christian performance). We recognize that there are some things that Christians do as a result of being made new in Christ, but how do we as believers balance out what we “do” as a result of our faith and avoid putting heavy expectations on unbelievers?

**Final Thoughts**

Today’s Christians aren’t necessarily concerned with the Old Testament rules and regulations per se, so we don’t necessarily concern ourselves too much with replacing what we do as Christians with things like planting our fields with two types of seed or cutting the hair at the sides of our heads. We have to remember that not all rules are bad, either. Some rules are just good for maintaining order. What we are concerning ourselves with are modern applications of “religious rules” that distort the gospel of grace that we find in Jesus.

1. James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)