

Sunday June 28, 2026
30 minutes
@ Fort George Baptist Church
Galatians 6:6-18
Freedom In Between Series

Does It Matter?

- We are going to start off this morning with a bit of a game so I can learn a little bit about you...please don't punch the person beside you.
- This is a game of "It Matters or It Doesn't Matter"
 - o Hold your hands up in a V
 - o Your left hand = 1 = it doesn't matter at all
 - o Your right hand = 10 = it matters immensely
 - o Hands straight up and down = half way = it sort of matters but it sort of doesn't matter.
 - I am going to give you a scenario and you have to place your hand on the scale of "It matters vs it doesn't matter" in the appropriate place as to where it fits for you.
 - Your spouse/partner/friend asks you to go out for dinner. They ask you where you want to go.
 - o It matters (left hand) = you know exactly which restaurant you want to go to...your favourite...McDonald's
 - o It doesn't matter (right hand) = you don't care which restaurant you go to...you will be just as happy at the mall food court as you would be at North54
 - o Or somewhere in between
 - You have just had a really stressful day so you go home and you need a snack, but you discover the only snack you have is a bag of apples.
 - o It matters (left hand) = that's a big deal and you are likely going to the store to get something else
 - o It doesn't matter (right hand) = it isn't a big deal...you will eat half a dozen apples as a snack
 - o Or somewhere in the middle
 - Your boss calls you and says, "I need to talk to you. Come to my office in 1 hour."
 - o It matters (left hand) = you are not going to be able to get anything done for the next hour because you are going to be so stressed about this meeting
 - o It doesn't matter (right hand) = it isn't a big deal. That's life. You will deal with that conversation when the time comes, but for now you are focussed on getting your job done.
 - o Or somewhere in the middle.

- Each of us find ourselves in situations regularly where it matters or it doesn't matter.
 - And your response to a certain situation might be very different than the response of the person sitting beside you.
- This morning, we are looking at the last few verses of the book of Galatians.
 - So far throughout Galatians, Paul has addressed the Jesus followers who are being led astray by the Judaizers who say, "Jesus + _____ = salvation"
 - The plus is a required action or actions that the Judaizers say must be done...most notably be circumcised...otherwise God won't accept you.
 - Paul confronts that "plus" by saying salvation is found in Jesus alone...In many ways, Paul is saying there are a lot of things that don't matter.

READ Galatians 6:6-18

- Before we get to the meat and potatoes here, as I was reading through this passage, there were three questions that came to mind, that aren't central questions, but questions that deserve to be answered, so I want to pause, take 5 minutes, and answer those questions:
 - 1) READ Galatians 6:6
 - Does this make anyone else slightly uncomfortable or is it just me, a pastor who is uncomfortable by this?
 - You give those of us who teach stuff.
 - That is an awkward verse when it comes to being a pastor.
 - What does it look like for someone to "share all good things" with their teacher?
 - Physical generosity – Paul relied on the generosity of those around him as he taught and preached.
 - He was a tentmaker to make money and provide for himself, but he also was very good at accepting hospitality from those who he interacted with in the midst of his teachings.
 - It seems here that he pointing towards paid ministry.
 - The nature of the church, is that pastors are often paid for what they do.
 - Spiritual generosity – Prayer matters.
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-2 – Pray for all people...intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all those in authority... (NLT)
 - I will speak on behalf of the leaders of FGBC...we cherish your prayers.
 - The generosity of stories.

- Share what is going on in your life, and in the community...tell the story of what God is doing, how lives are being changed, and how people are coming to experience abundant life.
 - One of the things that we want to try to do better is tell the stories of God at work regularly...if you have a story of God showing up in the last year, please let me know.
- 2) READ Galatians 6:11
 - I read this in the voice of the wolf from Little Red Riding Hood.
 - Why does Paul say/write this?
 - He does this a couple times in scripture (1 Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians).
 - Paul didn't write each of the letters that were attributed to him...a scribe did the writing on his behalf.
 - There are a few theories as to why Paul said, "Look at my big letters" but the most feasible of those theories is that Paul wanted to emphasize what was being written and that he was with the people to whom he was writing.
 - He wasn't just writing them saying, "Do this and that and this" and then he would go on his way...
 - Paul was encouraging the church, challenging the church, and then saying to them, "I am with you in this journey of pursuing Jesus, even if I am not there physically."
- 3) Last tangential question: READ Galatians 6:17
 - What kind of scars is Paul talking about here?
 - In the midst of a conversation about the importance of being transformed by Christ, it seems a little strange that Paul brings up these scars.
 - In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul indicates the thorn in his flesh that he experiences...we don't know what exactly that thorn is, but it might be tied to these scars.
 - In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul lays out some of the trials that he has faced, which include being beaten and experiencing lashes, and being stoned.
 - I am going to go out on a limb and say that the fact that Paul took a rod to his back likely means that he has a scar of some sort as a result.
 - Even in the midst of the transformation that Paul experienced, his life wasn't perfect or easy...he went

through the ringier, yet came out on the other side saying,
“Jesus is worthy of it all”

- Now back to the big picture of these last few verses of Paul’s letter to the church in Galatia, where Paul emphasizes that it doesn’t matter.
 - He isn’t saying that life doesn’t matter, but he is saying that what a pursuit of Jesus looks like doesn’t matter, especially if it’s a pursuit that is tied to particular actions.
 - Paul’s focus is that the cross of Christ matters most, and everything else matters less.
 - If you have been circumcised...cool.
 - If you haven’t been circumcised...cool.
 - It doesn’t matter either way.
 - The same can be said about just about anything else too.
 - If you have read the bible through completely...cool.
 - If you haven’t read the bible through completely...cool.
 - Scripture matters, but how much you read scripture isn’t what saves you.
 - If you have listened to the newest Forest Frank album...awesome.
 - If you haven’t and have no clue who Forest Frank is...cool.
 - Worship is important, but how you worship and what music you listen to doesn’t save you...the important thing is that you worship Jesus the King.
 - We can even go so far as to say, if you have experienced 100 salvations...if we as a church have experienced 100 salvations and people coming to Christ or if you have experience 1 salvation and person coming to Christ, it means the same thing.
 - One of the signs of a healthy church is that people would come to faith in Christ, but measuring health by numerical growth is not the defining characteristic of following Jesus...it’s important, but it’s not salvation.
- This doesn’t-mattering is what Paul builds to as he makes his way to the end of this letter.
 - I want you to pause for a moment and think about where you have come in life, particularly in your faith journey.
 - Some of you can’t remember when you first met Jesus...and it isn’t because your memory is going but it’s because you have been following Jesus for so long.
 - Some of you remember very clearly the time, the date, the circumstances where you met Jesus.
 - I was 7, at a Bible camp in Manitoba, and I heard the message shared at chapels and experienced the worship, but it was the way that my cabin leaders conducted themselves and lived their lives that caused me to make that initial decision to follow Jesus.
 - Some of you have been on a roller coaster of faith...you chose to follow Jesus, then life got in the way and faith took a back seat, but then you

circled back, and here you are today saying, I follow Jesus...not perfectly, but here I am.

- Some of you are new to faith...you heard about Jesus, or you thought that church might be a good thing for you, so here you are, figuring out who Jesus is alongside a bunch of other people who are figuring out who Jesus is and what it looks like to follow Jesus into the abundant life that He gives.
- Some of you are faith adjacent or even agnostic or atheist or unsure of faith altogether, but you are here because someone invited you, or your curious, or you were walking by and saw a bunch of vehicles, came in, and realize that you missed the dance recital by a week (that is why we met in the parking lot last week)
- If I can paraphrase Paul, it doesn't matter what you have come through, but what matters is that you know Jesus is with you in the midst of what you have gone through and what you are going through right now...your life, your past, and your circumstances actually do matter...I am not saying that where you have been doesn't matter, but what matters more is Jesus in your life now.
 - God's justice over creation is perfect.
 - Therefore, God is leading each of us into the path of righteousness, even in the midst of our imperfections...each one of us sits here knowing our imperfections...knowing that we are broken and hurting and in need of a savior and a community to walk with us.
 - We harvest what we plant.
 - As God is a just God, we can't trick God by sowing a little but expecting much.
 - If a farmer is aiming to plant a field of wheat, their target is about 45 seeds of wheat per 1 sq foot of land, which is then extrapolated for the whole field.
 - Imagine that farmer decides to cut costs by halving that number...23 seeds per square foot of land.
 - Then imagine their disappointment when their crop doesn't yield what it should yield.
 - They can't get mad with anyone but themselves.
 - When we plant in the Kingdom of God, we get what we sow...if we want to cut corners, we are going to get what is gotten with cut corners.
 - People (maybe this is just myself) have a tendency to focus on themselves.
 - What do I want?
 - What do I need?
 - What will benefit me?
 - Paul says, "Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature." (Galatians 6:8, NLT)
 - When we focus on ourselves, it becomes much more difficult to love God or love the people around us, which goes against what Jesus taught...love God, love people.

- I will commit to God later...right now I have to go to work and make money...God can take up my Sunday morning, but that's about it.
 - I will maybe signup for that meal train, or that small group, or that ministry team... but maybe next year ...right now I can't because then I won't have time to relax like I want to or do what I want to do.
 - I don't have time to read my Bible now, but I will do that later...just before bed...that just before bed then ends up with a bunch of snores as your Bible lays open beside you because you were just too tired.
- This is a human reality...but the more that we focus on ourselves, the more we harvest unChristlikeness in our relationships with those around us.
 - Instead of harvesting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control we harvest hatred, anger, anxiousness, impatience, hostility, greed, lust, agitation and self-righteousness.
 - These are things that we do without even setting out to do them.
 - Often I get home from work before Karissa...when she gets home, my desire isn't to lash out at her right away, but there are times that my frustration or my anger comes to the forefront because she said something relatively innocent that confronted my desires.
- But when my focus is beyond myself and on the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, then it becomes more natural for me to harvest the fruit of the Spirit...those things that build up instead of tearing down so subtly.
- So Paul says we are to do good.
 - Have you heard the verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing"?
 - The idea here is the same...Do good without ceasing.
 - The following quote has been attributed to many people through the years, including John Wesley, but we don't know exactly who said it first..."Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."
 - Love people unconditionally.
 - Serve those around you.
 - Make a difference in the lives of people.
 - In centuries past it was the church that spearheaded hospitals, schools, orphanages, and other institutions that met the needs of the community.

- That still happens to a degree, but more often than not, our me time trumps time to love and serve others.
 - We walk by the person laying on the sidewalk either pretending that we didn't see them, or figuring that it is too much of an inconvenience to us and the next person will help.
 - We are called to do good not just to those on the street and in desperate need, but to do good for everyone, **ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE FAMILY OF FAITH.**
 - Look around you...this is your immediate family of faith, but the family of faith is much bigger than FGBC.
 - Think back to church in the park a couple of weeks ago.
 - That is a glimpse of the PG family of faith, but it is actually global.
 - Do good without ceasing as a declaration of the goodness of God to the world around you.
 - We all do have limited time though and I am not advocating that you do more, but I am advocating that your life is oriented around your pursuit of Christ such that doing good is just a built in part of your day to day life.
 - You aren't doing good so that you can feel that altruistic high, but so that you can point others to Christ.
- Paul then ends with what he sees as the most important... "If I am going to boast, may I boast about one thing only...the cross of Christ."
 - Each of us has things that we love to talk about.
 - Right now, for me, it is the World Cup...a global football tournament held every 4 years with the world's best soccer teams, including Cabo Verde just makes for a great story.
 - Paul isn't saying that Jesus is the only thing to talk about, so I am not saying, "If you have a conversation about something that doesn't include Jesus, make sure you insert the name of Jesus into that conversation or you are a heathen."
 - We are talking about how Christ can permeate everything, just like smoke can permeate everything, which we learned after the fire at the church.
 - Where is God at work in your life? In the world? In your workplace? In your family? In your fun? In your frustration? In your service?

- You can talk about soccer, while talking about the faithfulness of God.
- You can talk about the weather while talking about God's provision.
- You can talk about your work, while thanking God for his goodness.
- And you can have these conversations, boasting about Christ, without being that person that your coworkers think is weird because you only talk about Jesus.
 - You can boast about Christ with your words and your actions without actually only talking about Jesus.
- The only thing that actually matters to Paul, is that we have been transformed into a new creation...when that happens, our life and faith becomes who we are...we aren't the sum of our parts, but we are children of God.
 - Our new life counts...it matters.
 - It is not just a "rule that we follow" but it defines our character and being.
 - We are not who we were, defined by rules and actions and ceremonies, but we are God's people, characterized by the abundant life that we have found in Jesus.
 - What we do does not earn God's love, but what Jesus has done changes how we live day after day.
 - Our actions matter.
 - How we live our lives does indeed matter.
 - But we live our life out of an abundance of who Jesus is, not out of an abundance of who we are.
 - The good that we do, the boasting that we boast of is only done so that God may be greater, and we may become less.

Discussion Questions:

- Introduce
- What do you think about the phrase, "What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation." (Galatians 6:15b)
- What might boasting about the cross of Christ look like for you?
- Take communion together.