

Sermon Discussion Guide: Waiting for Righteousness (Galatians 5:2-6)
May 16th, 2021

1. **Connect:** What are outward signs of righteousness in our culture today which demonstrate that we belong to the right group or right cause?

2. **Remember the Point:** Read Galatians 5:2-4. Why does Paul use such strong language to say that embracing circumcision and righteousness through the law will result in being cut off from Christ and falling from grace? Using Paul's logic about why circumcision gives no lasting assurance to us, why can we be assured that we will have lasting assurance in Christ and never be cut off if we trust in Christ?

3. **Take it Deeper:** Read Galatians 5:5. Paul says that we wait for our final vindication in Christ and the final righteousness given by Christ through the work of the Spirit. This reminds us that our whole life depends on the ongoing work of the Spirit. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27, John 14:15-17, Romans 8:12-17. What do these verses reveal about our dependency on the Spirit and the work of the Spirit in us as we wait?

4. **Live it out:** Read Galatians 5:6. The Judaizers were using the sign of circumcision as a way to dissociate people from the body of Christ, cast them out, and ultimately say they do not belong. Paul says that this goes directly against the central Christian ethic to love one another. It is especially difficult to love people from a different tribe, political conviction, and personal opinions. In our current polarizing culture, how might we Christians lead the way in loving people different from us without compromising our own convictions? How have you been unloving this past week and what would it look like to truly love those God has put in your path?

5. **Pray it in:** Ask for any prayer requests. Have one person to pray or multiple to pray depending on the group. Pray that the Lord would help you by the Spirit to wait on the future righteousness and vindication from Christ. Confess forms of righteousness that you have clung too tightly to that are outside of the word of God. Pray for specific people you find challenging to love that God would equip you with all you need to love them as Christ loved us.