

## How to be a PERFECT Christian—Follow the Rules

### Study Questions

#### Galatians 6:12-16

#### Warm-up

1) What are some things that you do to make a good first impression with people?

Do you have a funny story about a botched first impression?

#### A little deeper

2) [Galatians 6:12] Paul is warning against those who want to add requirements from their own culture to the gospel. **What are some parts of our own culture that sometimes get caught up in what it means to be a Christian—what do we add?**

3) [Galatians 6:13] Paul also said that those compelling others to circumcision did so in order to boast, as if to say, “See, these are more people who believe the same way we do!” **In what ways can modern Christianity devolve into a competition or a “numbers game”?**

4) [Galatians 6:14] Rather than boast in anything he’s done, Paul would boast in the cross. **What does it mean to “boast” in the cross of Jesus Christ? Who gets the honor for this “boasting”?**

5) [Galatians 6:15] Whether one is circumcised or not doesn’t matter, but what does is the “new creation.” **What is meant by the “new creation”?** (See also 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, if needed.)

**If someone were to base their righteousness (or their church’s righteousness) on actions, how distracting would it be from Jesus and this new creation?**

**What relationship do good works have to the new creation?**

#### Bringing it home

6) [Galatians 6:16] Peace is granted to those who trust in Jesus. **Is there an area of your life where you have some fear, guilt, anger, or dread? If so, how might you be holding on to control or pride in that area of your life?**

**What can you do to surrender that area of your life over to Jesus?**

7) What are some things that you would feel comfortable “boasting” in the cross of Jesus for?

**If you can’t think of anything, what is something you wish God would do for you, but you just haven’t asked?**

#### Reflection & Prayer

8) Praise God for His awesome power and righteousness, and that He still chooses to accept us as we are. Ask for forgiveness for the areas that you still hold onto, for which you might boast in the flesh. Ask God to remove your sources of pride and replace them with His own works in your life, that you might boast in Him instead.