

Easter Sunday **Galatians 6:11-18; John 20**

Introduction

On this Easter Sunday we gather to:

- 1) Celebrate the new creation of Easter Sunday
- 2) Boast in the cross of Good Friday

The Passage

I. Celebrating the new creation of Easter Sunday

A. John 20: the resurrection account

1. John's story echoes the original creation account in Genesis 1-2
 - a. Genesis 1-2
 - 1) 7-day work week
 - 2) A Garden where Adam/Eve are to be the gardeners
 - 3) God breathes his Spirit/breath into Adam
 - b. John 20
 - 1) A new work week beginning on the 1st day of week (20:1)
 - 2) A garden and a new gardener(19:41; 20:15)
 - 3) Jesus breathes his Spirit on the disciples (20:21-22)
2. John is giving us a new creation account
On Easter Sunday, the God who had created the world in the beginning is at work creating again—a new creation through Jesus Christ
3. The risen Jesus is now at work in this world spreading this new creation
 - a. Breathing his Spirit into people so that they “come alive”(come to faith)
See Ephesians 2:1-7, Colossians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - b. Analogy: Pinocchio
Story of wooden puppet named Pinocchio brought to life
 - c. We are not being made perfect yet, but we are coming alive to faith in Christ (forgiveness, freedom, fruit of spirit, hope of eternal life)

B. Galatians 6:15

1. It doesn't matter if you're circumcised or not because what counts is a “new creation”
2. What counts is what God has done in our hearts (made us alive to him, new creations). Cutting our flesh outwardly makes no difference

II. Boasting in the cross of Good Friday

A. Galatians 6: 14a: boasting only in the cross

1. What a strange thing to brag about! A 1st century Roman tool of execution
2. Two realities on display at the cross

a. Our sin

John Stott: “Every time we look at the cross, Christ seems to say to us, ‘I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.’ Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, until we

have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross that we shrink to our true size.”

b. God’s salvation

- 1) We see the wisdom of God: he is able to solve the greatest relational problem in the universe
- 2) We see the justice of God: he is able to deal with sin without destroying his sinful creatures
- 3) We see the humility of God: he becomes a man and dies the most humiliating death to serve us
- 4) We see the unconditional love of God: he is willing to go to any lengths for us

3. “Boasting” not merely understanding

We shouldn’t just understand the cross, we should boast in it
= cherish it, find all our value, worth, and identity in what Christ did for us at the cross

B. Galatians 14b: “the world crucified to me and I was crucified to the world”

1. The world is crucified to us

- a. At the cross the old world with its charm and power dies to us
- b. Analogy: an old girlfriend/boyfriend can have a charm/power over us until we meet someone else, and then they “die” to us (they no longer have that charm and control over us; we no longer care what they think about us)
- c. The charm of the world dies (its wealth, pleasure, entertainment, fame) because we have found something better (eternal life with our loving God)
- d. The need for the world’s approval dies because at the cross we have found all the approval we need
- e. We can live with great freedom because we no longer buy into the world’s promises

2. I am crucified to the world

- a. The world is not that impressed with us. We appear strange and confusing to the world.

III. Two Examples

A. The false teachers in Galatia

Galatians 6:12: Their motivation is avoiding persecution because they are not boasting in the cross and the world has not died to them, so they are still under the control of the world

B. The apostle Paul

Galatians 6:17: He preaches the cross and he is persecuted for it but he doesn’t care because he has died to the world and no longer cares what the world thinks of him—he is a new creation.

Conclusion

Celebrate the new creation that began on Easter Sunday
Boast in the cross of Good Friday

Discussion Questions

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?
2. How does seeing the parallels between Genesis 1-2 and John 20 add to or change your understanding of the resurrection of Christ?
3. Explain in your own words the connection between boasting in the cross and having the world crucified to us.
4. In what area of your life do you wish the world was more crucified to you? That is, where would you like to be freed from the charm of the world or its standards of success or approval?
5. What one main idea will you take away from our series in Galatians?