

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Galatians 4:8 - 31

1. Read Galatians 1:6-7. Think back over what you have seen in this letter. Why do you think Paul wrote it?

Appeal no.1 – verses 8-11

2. Bob Dylan sang: 'You're gonna have to serve somebody, It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, But you're gonna have to serve somebody'. From v8-9, who or what are the Galatians in danger of serving?
3. What is the significance of 'enslaved'? Why is this a problem?

Appeal no. 2 – verses 12- 20

4. In v12, Paul says 'become as I am, for I also have become as you are'. What does he mean?
5. In v13-16 how does Paul describe his history with the Galatian church? Why do you think he reminds them of this? How does this contrast with the agitators¹ history with the Galatian church?
6. In v19-20 Paul comes the heart of his emotional appeal? What does this reveal about him? Whose Christian maturity do you agonise over?
7. How patient are you with the Christian growth of others?
8. Paul is perplexed about these people, he is in anguish over them – what has been his strategy for ministering to them? What lessons do we learn here about our ministry to others?

Appeal no. 3 – verses 21-31

9. How does v21 reveal Paul's aim in the section that follows? What is he making clear?
10. How many contrasts can you find in this section? The first one seems to be slave woman / free woman. What other ones can you find?
11. Our freedom as Christians means understanding ourselves according to who we are in Christ. Justified, Regenerate, Adopted. What other enslaving ways are we prone to think about ourselves? How can we avoid these?
12. Optional Question – v21-31 can seem a little confusing! (2 Peter 3:15-16!) Try writing one set of contrasts on one side of the page and the other set on the other side. Which side do the Galatians belong to v28, v31. Which side will they belong to if they adopt the Jesus plus gospel of the agitators?

¹ Agitators – this is a way of referring to those people who seemed to be troubling the Galatians with their insistence on Jesus plus...In their case, it was Jesus plus obeying the Old Testament law. We first learn of their influence in chapter 1:6-7 but then also throughout the letter in 1:9; 2:4-5, 12; 3:1; 4:17; 5:7-10, 12 (ouch!); 6:12.