

## ARPC Family camp study guide...

Over the weekend we held our annual family camp. Discuss the time away. What did you really enjoy the most and why? What new things did you learn about others you didn't know before?



*The three talks we had from Mark Cooper-White were from the letter Paul wrote to the Galatians. Coops covered the power of the gospel to build living, authentic communities of believers and the opposite of that which is to lose the gospel freedom and revert back to our default setting of rules based religion... To use his profound theological terminology... Coop's answer to any who think they can gain salvation by works is, **"What a hare brained idea!"** If we have Jesus we have it all... don't leave Jesus for law... but the challenge for us is to make sure we are living for Jesus actively and openly... for it's one thing to have right belief and another to live out right belief.*

### **Read Galatians 1:11-24.**

1. Who was Paul and how did his conversion experience shape his gospel preaching?
2. Open access to God is only available to us through Jesus. Coops likened this to access to our bank funds through our PIN. How important is it for us to hold to Jesus as the only access to God? And how useful is the PIN illustration in helping others understand why Jesus is the exclusive but all inclusive Saviour?

### **Read Galatians 2:11-12**

A line from one of Kenny Rodgers's song goes, 'sometimes your gotta fight to be a man'... in this section Paul opposes Peter in a public forum because the gospel was at stake. 'Sometimes you gotta fight for gospel truth' and this is one clear example of such a time.

3. What does Paul remind Peter of in regard to what they both firmly believe vv15-17?
4. What does Paul soundly rebuke Peter of doing, and how damaging is this to the community life of the Galatian believers vv11-15?

5. Why is it anti-Christ and oppressive to gospel communities to set up external standards of behaviour and practice as the means of assessing 'Christian maturity' or even being part of a Christian community?
6. Do you make other believers uncomfortable or at ease in the way you live out your faith?

### **Read Galatians 3:26-5:1**

God is after a relationship with his people not religious actions which get soundly condemned all the way through the Word. God wants us to have faith in Jesus Christ. He is after: Sons not slaves 4:1-7, Love not legalism 4:8-20, Promise not performance 4:21,31. God wants us to be free 5:1. (The following questions are from Coops and were intended for the study session after his last talk on the Sunday morning.)

7. Why does LEGALISM drive people away from the Cross?
8. Why does legalism ruin church families, and their community witness?
9. Are you a member of a local public group, like your local pub, soccer or quilting club? Why, or why not?
10. In what ways do you talk to people about Jesus in these groups?
11. What kind of message about Jesus are you communicating to them?
12. Why is it crucial we communicate the CORRECT message about the gospel?