

Title: The Cross is greater than the Curse

Text: Galatians 3:1–6, 13, 25–28

Target: Religion is what I do. Christianity is what Christ has done.

1. **Rebuked for Religion: Legalism determines Righteousness**

a. **Religion Distorts the Cross:** *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.”*

(Vs. 1)

b. **Religion Depends on Human Effort:** *“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”* (Vs. 3)

c. **Religion Denies Grace:** *“just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness?’”* (Vs. 6)

Question: In what ways do you find yourself slipping into *religion*...Relying on effort, rules, or performance—rather than resting in what Christ has already done?

Question: How has legalism distorted your view of the cross or made you feel like you must “earn” God’s love?

2. **Rescued from the Curse: Every Curse Broken**

a. **He Bore the Curse:** *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree,’”* (Vs. 13)

b. **He Bought our Freedom:** *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”* (Romans 8:1–2)

Question: What “curses” (sin patterns, family cycles, shame, condemnation) do you struggle to believe Jesus has already broken in your life?

Question: How would your daily life look different if you truly lived as one completely free in Christ?

3. **Received as Righteous: Forever Sons and Daughters**

a. **Faith Releases:** *“But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,”* (Vs. 25)

b. **Faith Restores:** *“for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”* (Vs. 26)

c. **Faith Reorients:** *“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”* (Romans 8:16-17)

Question: What does it mean for you personally to live as a son/daughter rather than a servant trying to prove your worth?

Question: How does knowing you are an heir with Christ reshape how you handle suffering, setbacks, or seasons of waiting?

4. **Reunited as One: United in Christ is true Unity**

a. **Clothed Us:** *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”* (Vs. 27)

b. **Called Us:** *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Vs. 28)

Question: Where have you seen division in the church, and how does this passage challenge you to pursue unity?

Question: How does “putting on Christ” change the way you view people who are different from you in background, culture, or status?

Takeaway: What religion demands, Christ has already done!

Challenge:

This week, identify one area of your life where you’ve been striving in your own strength—trying to earn God’s approval, carry guilt, or live under a curse Jesus already broke. Surrender that area to Him in prayer, then take one practical step to live in freedom as a son or daughter of God.