

# GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

*Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

## When are you “enough”?

God’s people have long struggled with feeling like they are “enough.” In our messages series we will focus on Paul’s answer to the Galatians about being “enough.” In GroupWork we will see how Paul dealt with that same subject as he writes to the Colossians from his imprisonment in Rome.

### Read Colossians 1:1-23 aloud.

1. Pause to review this section, highlighting words and phrases that are significant to you. Share your observations with the group.
2. Look at the last paragraph (vv. 21-23). What words or phrases assure you that you are “enough” in God’s sight?
3. Now look at verses 15-20. Often we try to make ourselves feel we are “enough” by highlighting what we have done. The result is either pride or despair. The key to being “enough” is seeing our worth in the One who loved us and gave himself for us. Pick out descriptions of Jesus in this paragraph to complete the sentences below: For example, “The firstborn of all creation loved me and gave himself for me.”

\_\_\_\_\_ loved me and gave himself for me.

\_\_\_\_\_ loved me and gave himself for me.

\_\_\_\_\_ loved me and gave himself for me.

### Discuss how each of these phrases reveals your great worth to God our Father.

4. Read again Paul’s thanksgiving (vv 3-8). Sometimes it takes the thanksgiving of a fellow believer to help us see that the Holy Spirit is working powerfully in us. What did Paul see in the Colossians that you also see in your fellow group members?

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

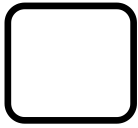
<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. <sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

5. Close with prayer. Pair up and pray for each other, using verses 9-14, replacing the pronouns with your partner’s name.



## NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

### Galatians I

#### LEGALISM – the Misuse of God's law

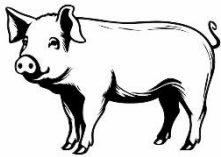
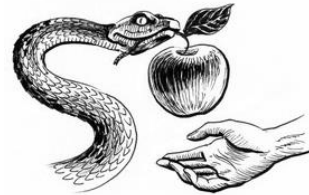
### LEGALISM: THE CHRONIC ILLNESS THAT JUST WON'T QUIT

*If you die today, will your soul go to heaven or hell?*



- a) Heaven.
- b) Hell.
- c) I don't know.
- d) I'm afraid to know.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ **God's Law Got Us Into this Mess.**



2. O \_\_\_\_\_ **Over the Law Was a Dead End  
...yet a BLESSING!**

3. F \_\_\_\_\_ **the Law's PLACE...Can STILL Be Fatal!**



#### **Next Steps** – KEY WORDS/PHRASES FOR OUR STUDY OF GALATIANS

**Justification by Faith** – Being made right with God comes through believing in Jesus, not through following religious laws or rituals.

**Law** – In contrast with the Gospel, the Law cannot justify people.

**Gospel** – The good news of salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus.

**Grace** – God's undeserved favor; the gift of salvation received through faith.

**Freedom** – Believers are set free in Christ from the bondage to the Law; but this freedom is not a license to sin. The Christian is called to live by the Spirit and in love.

**New Creation** – The radical transformation that occurs when someone is united with Christ by faith. The Christian now lives by the Spirit and in love.