



# Galatians #8

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What are you really proud of

w/c 22 March 2026

*"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you." (CS Lewis)*

## Read Galatians 6:11-18

You can almost hear the sigh of relief. The letter is finished, dictation over, the scribe has gone home. Paul perhaps reads through his words; yes, he feels, the point has been made; the explanation has been thorough. Now it's time to add few closing words. To remind them of the Paul they had met and eaten with and lived with. To tie everything together just a little more and add that final emphasis.

First and foremost, he looks to give them further reason to distrust those who had gained their confidence and led them down that dangerous path. The way of thinking that saw a necessity to truly be Jewish if you wanted to be a follower of the Messiah. Paul complains that those doing so are merely seeking an easy way out. To fit in with the ways of normal mid-first-century life in Galatia. Trying to return life to the safe duality of Roman and Jew.

How do we recognise that we may be trying to take an easier way just because it is easier?

What does it mean to "boast ... in the cross" while avoiding the charge of arrogance?

Verse 15 is not really about being circumcised or not. Paul is simply comparing any of our actions (ultimately worthless) and those of God – eternally valuable.

How might we emphasise in our lives those things of eternal value. How do we recognise them?

In writing his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul picks up some of the same themes as he addressed when writing to the Galatian church but now has five further years of experience and understanding to build on. In the passage we heard on Sunday (**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**) he again picks up on the thought that it doesn't really matter what we do or don't do. What actually counts is what God has done and will continue to do.

He also warns them that their message will often be misunderstood by those around them. Today – as we address a postmodern culture – the response may not be that simple. Our hearers may feel that it's not so much that our message is wrong but that we are wrong to even suggest there could be a single coherent message. To seek to persuade others that there might be an answer to 'life, the universe and everything', will be seen by some as combining the worst elements of both a stumbling block and foolishness.

How can we communicate the gospel in a way that is both true to its story and yet accessible to those we encounter?

*"Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves; vanity, to what we would have others think of us." (Jane Austen)*

## Draw Near - week 5: Sharing the Good News

As with earlier weeks, you may also wish to spend part of your time on some or all of the questions found in this week's group material for *Draw Near*.

You may also find it helpful to start by listening together to the video that accompanies these studies.

This week's theme is *Sharing the Good News*. In groups we are asked to reflect on three questions:



Who was the person that shared the good news with you? What did that feel like?

Who in your life might God be 'sending' you to?

We often think of sharing the gospel as preaching. What are some small, everyday ways to share God's love without using many words?

*"Jesus calls us to share the Good News of his resurrection. When we open our hearts to the message of the gospel and draw near to God, others are drawn to him with us into his unfailing love."*

(Draw Near)