

Galatians 3:23-29

Change for the better

Paul contrasts life before Christ, under the discipline of the Law, with the freedom that Christ brings to believers. Those who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with him and previous divisions on gender or racial lines no longer exist – all are one in Jesus and true heirs of Abraham.

Read this week's passage:



Discuss

why people wear uniforms (to reduce inequality, to be identifiable, to emphasise being part of a group, to represent a school/business etc.) Can Christians be identified by some of the things they wear? When Paul talks about being 'clothed with Christ', what does this mean?



LISTEN

to 'Clothed in Christ' by Genevieve Falleur.



Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'The law was our disciplinarian until Christ came.' Galatians 3:24

Paul tells us that we are all invited, all free and equal in Christ. God's plan to include all nations, all people, was in place before God gave the Law to Moses. We are all children of Abraham, children of God's promise. Following the Law is hard, and it was never a perfect solution. The Law was in place to lead us to Christ, to help us realise we need God and his forgiveness, and love. In what ways have you followed the rules to please or impress God or others? How do you feel about those rules? Who did those rules exclude? What was good about those rules? Do you think those rules are still necessary?

Paul tells us that faith supersedes the Law. Our faith in Christ means we can be forgiven and made new. There is a change of emphasis from rule-following to relationship and faith. Which do you find easier: rule-following or relationship? Are there divisions that we still hold onto (Jew/Greek, slave/free, male/female, or others) that Paul says are now redundant, because we are one in Christ?

First impressions

- How has faith changed you for the better?
- What does it mean to be clothed in Christ?
- We are all one in Christ – there are no labels. Who do you know that needs to hear this?



Pray

Holy God,
help us to make changes for the better,
in our lives and in our world.
Help us to face our fears to become
the people you want us to be. Amen.



Write

down a way you would like to become more like Jesus, (e.g. more loving, more patient, kinder to outsiders, etc) and put the note in the pocket of your jacket, or a piece of clothing you wear regularly. When you rediscover it later, let it remind you to be 'Clothed in Christ'.

WATCH



Paulo Nutini singing 'New Shoes'. Why does he feel 'suddenly everything's right' because he has new shoes? Why have things changed for the better? Does this link with the passage from Galatians?