

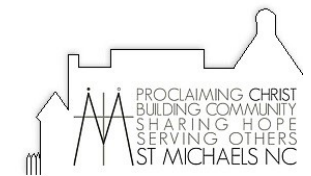
How might the radical “creed” of vs. 28 look if practiced in the church today?

DISCUSS: Have you seen or experienced any of the following, or other distortions of the Gospel’s message and practice, and what outcomes for Christian communities were there as a result?

- ⇒ Some fall prey to a system of **legalism** and works of righteousness that promises more, but produces hardship and inequity
 - ⇒ Some fall prey to **formalism**, substituting external ceremonies for the internal transformation of the heart Jesus speaks of in the Gospels
 - ⇒ Some fall prey to **prohibitions**, with autocratic leaders and dogmatic rules of dos and don’ts determine one’s acceptance or rejection, or one’s place or role
 - ⇒ Some fall prey to seeking a **higher blessing** or measure of the Spirit than others in their church, creating an elite class of Christian with special knowledge/gifts/access to God
 - ⇒ Some fall prey to a **social agenda** or ideology, where sacrifice of comfort, possessions, etc. is promoted as essential to one’s acceptance by God and one’s standing in the church
- Read Colossians 2:6-23. List the essentials to hold on to, and the warnings in these verses.

3. *Prayer*

Thankyou that you reveal yourself to us and have called us to both



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Equality

1. *Warm Up*

What board games or electronic/video games can you think of that involve inequality between players? In your example, what is the experience like to be disadvantaged in comparison to the others?

Describe a time/place/experience when you, or someone you know, really appreciated your sense of freedom?

Posters around town on the street say “You are all the same”. How do you react to this statement? What’s challenging about the statement?

2. *Radical Unity/Freedom in Galatians Chapter 3*

READ Galatians 3:23-28

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3. *Prayer*

Thankyou that you reveal yourself to us and have called us to both follow and to go. We praise you, that in your saving work on the cross there is nothing that you require of us but a broken and contrite heart, and openness to trust you at your Word, and receive your grace and love through Jesus Christ. Give us the courage and the perseverance to hold on to the hope we have in you, through



faith. Amen.

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