

GROWTH GROUPS

November 27, 2011

Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 12:1, 2

Conversation Starter –

So many times we enter into the Christmas season, known as Advent to Christians, with the goal that we could make this the best Christmas ever. By the time the holiday season is over, though, we are just thankful to have made it through. What was the best Christmas you ever had? Why? What made it so?

Understanding –

Galatians 4:4-5 is a passage that tells us that in the fullness of time Christ came to bring salvation and to change all of history. It was such a central event that our calendars changed to reflect BC and AD. The church has allowed the world to transform Christmas into a shopping extravaganza and time of such hustle and bustle that the real meaning of Christmas can get lost, even for the believer in Church. Party, party, party, shopping lists, re-gifting, decorating and a long list of things that make it so that we are so ready for it to be over. But is that all there is to Christmas for the believer? Romans 12:1,2 tells us to be transformed in our way of thinking and not to be conformed to the pattern of this world.

1. What is the pattern of thinking for the prevailing culture surrounding Christmas and the holidays? How do they define a successful holiday season? Why has Christmas become so stressful for so many people?
2. When all of the emphasis is on how much money is being spent on gifts in the retail world as the measure of a “successful season” how do we as believers keep our focus where it needs to be?
3. How do we as Christian believers reclaim Christmas from our prevailing culture? Why do we need to do that?

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