GALATIANS 2:11-24 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL - (SERMON MP3)

In some Christian fellowships it seems like believers hesitate to confront each other, but in others they confront too quickly. What do you think are the dangers of each approach?



- Why do you think Paul confronted Peter publically? Was that the right approach? Why didn't he follow the pattern given in (Matthew 18:15-17)?
- According to (Galatians 2:14-16), what made the issue worth the difficulty of public confrontation?
- How does our society's current emphasis on "tolerance" create a danger in the church when it comes to distorted truth or false teachers?₃

How might you use the gospel to respond to a Christian saying to you:



- "Jesus saved me, and now I am trying to live His way so that I can continue to deserve His forgiveness."
- "I get so angry when someone cuts me off on Interstate 15. Jerks like that deserve a honk and a salute!"
- "Teenagers who become real Christians will learn to like the King James Version bible."

Take a look at Galatians 2:20. Try to personalize the verse and put it in your own words below.



- So what happened to the Christian's old sinful self? What does it mean to you to be "crucified with Christ?"
- Who does God see when He looks at the justified Christian?
- What difference does this make in the way a Christian lives? What does it look like when a life is conformed to the cross (cruciformity)?

How should we primarily view the gospel - as a ticket to future heaven, or a manifesto for all of life today? Why?



- If you were to bring everything in your life in line with the gospel, what changes would need to occur in your thinking, feelings, and behavior?
- How can you consciously consider the gospel each morning so that it impacts what you do and how you do it?4

DIG DEEPER FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read Galatians 2:11-13 and describe in your own words the situation that concerned Paul.

		Taking into account Paul's previous meeting with Peter, James and John in Jerusalem as recounted earlier in Galatians 2, why would Paul have been especially upset at Peter's behavior in Antioch?		
		What do you think Peter had to fear from this group that came down "from James" (v.12)?		
		Why do you think small pressure groups in the church can arouse such fear in the majority and even in the leadership?		
		When have you given in to pressure and acted insincerely out of fear, rather than from personal conviction?		
Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. He had seen him teach, heal, live, die and rise again. With that in mind, what is so surprising about (Galatians 2:11-14)?				
	 If a "pillar" of the church (Gal. 2:9) could stumble into such gospel-denying hypocrisy, what message should that send to us? Read (Acts 11:1-18). Why did Peter originally begin eating with Gentiles? What was so significant about this vision according to (Act. How does this make his actions in (Galatians 2:12) even worse? 			
	•	How are you tempted to act hypocritically when it comes to the gospel, Christ, biblical truth? How can (2Timothy in this matter?	1:7) be an encouragement to us	
The Judaizers were distracting people from the grace of God and diminishing the worth of the death of Christ. They had their own point of emphasis – the law. In Galatians 2, Paul argues against the Mosaic Law as a means of justification.		their own point of emphasis - the law. In Galatians 2, Paul argues against the Mosaic Law as a	PRAYER REQUESTS	
	•	If the Law is incapable of saving people, as Paul argued, what is its purpose? Here are some verses to help you: Rom. 7:7-13; Gal. 3:22-25; 1Tim. 1:8-11. Summarize your thoughts below.		
		Galatian believers were tempted to think that human effort of keeping Jewish laws and customs was essential to salvation. Modern-day Christians don't typically try to adhere to the Mosaic Law in an attempt to earn God's favor, but what kinds of "Christian laws" are often held up as necessary for meeting God's approval?		
Two times (Galatians 2:5, 14) Paul speaks about the "truth of the gospel." How would you explain the "truth of the gospel" in your own words?				
	•	Who needs it (remember v. 11-14)		
	•	What difference does it make for our lives?		
	•	In what areas of your life to find it most difficult to live in line with the truth of the gospel?		