

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Galatians 2:11-16 - The Heart of the Gospel

Preaching Date: October 11, 2026

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Understanding the Text

1. What was Peter's offense? Why did Paul oppose him? And why did he do it publicly? (vv. 11-14)
2. Based on Peter's decision in verse 12, and the effects of his decision in verse 13, what can we learn about the fear of man? (vv. 12-13)
3. What did Paul mean when he said Peter and the others were not walking "straightforward about the truth of the gospel"? How did their actions contradict the gospel they professed? (v. 14)
4. What was the purpose of Paul's question at the end of verse 14? "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" (v. 14)
5. How does what Paul states in verse 15, "we are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles" relate to justification in verse 16? Specifically regarding his statement, "even we have believed in Christ Jesus..." (vv. 15-16)
6. What is the difference between being justified by faith in Jesus Christ and trying to be justified by works of the law? How does this distinction help us understand the heart of the gospel? (v. 16)

Personal Reflection & Application

1. In what ways do we allow the influence of others or the culture around us to shape our lives and cause us to deviate from the gospel? Where might we be tempted to care more about the approval of people than faithfulness to the gospel?
2. Are there ways we consciously or unconsciously treat some Christians as less acceptable because of their background, culture, traditions, personal practices, or secondary doctrines? What would it look like to welcome them in a way that reflects the gospel?
3. How can our actions contradict the gospel we claim to believe, even when our words and theology are correct? What is one area in which we need to walk more consistently with the truth of the gospel?
4. The gospel unites believers in Christ. Does this mean we must be united with all "professing" believers? Why or why not?
5. Do you ever measure your standing with God by your performance, spiritual disciplines, or success in obeying Him? How does justification by faith in Christ alone challenge that way of thinking while still encouraging obedience?
6. How should the truth that we are justified by grace through faith shape the way we respond when another believer needs correction? How can we speak truth clearly while remaining humble, loving, and committed to unity in Christ?