

The One True Gospel

Galatians 2:11-21

Live by Faith

Section 1: 2:11-14 – The Danger of Embracing Sin

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?"

When we distort the gospel or ignore the clear teachings of Christ, we can quickly find ourselves embracing sin. There is a massive danger involved in believers embracing sin rather than embracing Christ.

1. Sin condemns (v.11)
 - Sin has one objective...death. All sin (no matter how small we try to make it) leads to death. All sin seeks to destroy.
 - Romans 6:23; James 1:14-15
2. Sin separates (v.12)
 - Sin drives a wedge between us and God and between us as believers.
 - Isaiah 59:2; Proverbs 16:28
3. Sin causes fear of man (v.12)
 - When we sin...we begin caring more about what man thinks about us rather than God. Sin wants us to blend into the world.
 - Matthew 10:33
4. Sin makes us hypocrites (v.13)
 - As a follower of Christ, we are called to live for the glory of God. Sin causes us to abandon our desire to imitate Christ.
 - Romans 7:19; James 1:14
5. Sin impacts others (v.13)
 - We often forget that our sin definitely impacts others. We don't sin in isolation.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 8:12; 1 Corinthians 12:26
6. Sin draws you away from truth (v.14)
 - Jesus is the truth...therefore, sin always seeks to draw us from Christ and the truth of God's Word.
 - Proverbs 14:12
7. Sin compels you to live contrary to the gospel (v.14)
 - Sin is completely contrary to Christ; therefore, it is completely contrary to living out the call of the gospel. We are called to repent and believe. We must turn from sin because sin is contrary to who God is.
 - Galatians 5:17

Verses 11-14 characterize a life that embraces sin rather than embracing Christ. Embracing sin causes us to distort the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ According to Galatians 2:11-14, why is sin so dangerous?
- ❖ How can the desire to seek the approval of man lead us to forsake Christ?
- ❖ How is a life marked by the gospel different than a life marked by sin?

Section 2: 2:15-21 – The Freedom of Faith

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth and not “Gentile sinners,” ¹⁶ and yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified. ¹⁷ But if we ourselves are also found to be “sinners” while seeking to be justified by Christ, is Christ then a promoter of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

The opposite of embracing sin is living by faith through grace. Living out our faith gives us a freedom to glorify God with our lives. Sin enslaves and destroys. Faith frees and brings life.

1. Faith justifies by grace (v.15-16)
 - The source of our justification is faith by grace. Grace is God’s unmerited favor.
 - Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11
2. Faith leads to repentance (v.17)
 - Repentance is a turning. We are called to turn from sin and turn towards Jesus.
 - Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 3:8
3. Faith causes us to live for God (v.18-19)
 - Our faith causes us to live for God because ultimately the purpose of our faith is to know God. In our quest to know God more deeply, we desire to be obedient to His word.
 - Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2:10; John 14:15
4. Faith puts Christ in control (v.20)
 - Faith is trust in action. Our faith causes us to trust Christ to guide us through life.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:9; Psalm 119:105
5. Faith is by grace not by works (v.21)
 - Paul begins by connecting faith and grace and ends by connecting faith and grace. Faith is a gift that God has graciously given His people. And this gift is rooted in grace...not in works.
 - Ephesians 2:9

Verses 15-21 characterizes a life embracing Jesus as Lord. The result of repenting and submitting to Christ is a freeing faith that enjoys fellowship with God.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is our faith so valuable?
- ❖ What role does repentance play in our faith journey?
- ❖ Why does our faith compel us to live for the glory of God?
- ❖ How do we submit to Christ and give Him total control of our faith?