

Sermon Study Guide – September 10th, 2023

"God Wants a Church Willing to Say Hard Things"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How many churches are willing to take a stand on a difficult teaching or on a specific sin? For those that don't, why not? For those that do, why are they willing to do so?
- ◆ Even when a church says hard things from God's Word, what else must a church also say and do?

2) Today's Message: Galatians 2:11-16

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? ¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. Why would it have been difficult for Paul to confront Peter?
2. Why did Paul still do it? Was he just pushing his own agenda?
3. When we get rid of the hard teaching of sin, what else do we get rid of?
4. What can't we get rid of *unless* we are willing to say the hard things?
5. What does today's message mean for your pastor? What you should expect to hear from him?
6. How can you accurately identify the sins of others? (*hint: think of a sobriety test...*) Once you do, how should you deal their sins?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Ez. 33:7-11, Mt. 18:15-20 **Thursday:** Matthew 7

Tuesday: *review* Psalm 32 **Friday:** *read/review* Gal. 2

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17 **Saturday:** Galatians 6