

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 2:11-14--October 8th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Gospel Positions

The authority of the gospel does not change. Our position in the gospel changes. We can walk in step with or in opposition to the gospel.

I. Standing Condemned (v.11-12)

- According to Acts 10 and the Jerusalem Council, Peter understood that there was no distinction between Jew or Gentile, the gospel was available to all.
- He practiced this unity by having fellowship with Gentiles in Antioch, sharing a meal with them.
- When the “circumcision party” arrived Peter “drew back” (retreated) for fear of what they would think of he (a Jew) eating a meal with a unclean Gentile.
- If Peter can fall, we can all fall.
- This put Peter and it will put us in a position where the gospel condemns us. We are not condemned by others, by the church, by Paul, but by the authority of the gospel that we are denying.

II. Leading Astray (v.13)

- Following Peter’s example, Barnabas and other Jews present also draw back from fellowship with the Gentiles.
- Paul called these men “hypocrites,” wearing masks to conceal their true identity.
- These men didn’t really believe Gentiles were second class, but out of fear, they acted as if they did.
- They were insincere in their position in the gospel. Thus, they stumbled and fell, not being girded by the truth.
- Our position in the gospel can influence the position of others.

III. Walking in Step (v.14)

- When Paul sees the gospel being twisted, he courageously steps up to confront it, even against an apostle who is out of step with the gospel.
- The gospel is precious. It is the source of life for the believer. If we get it wrong it endangers our position, the position of others, the mission of the church, and the glory of God.
- Two applications:
 - We must learn to walk in step with the gospel.
 - We must courageously defend the gospel.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is precious. If we unite in a love for the gospel, where the gospel is paramount in our lives, then this will inevitably unite us in position where we are in step with the gospel for the glory of God.

Discussion Questions:

- What is Paul's charge against Peter and Barnabas?
- What is the danger of their error?
- Is this conflict between two apostles surprising to you? Why or why not?
- What motivated Peter to draw back from eating with the Gentiles?
- What influence did that have on others in the church?
- What influence do you think that had on the Gentiles he abandoned?
- Why do you think that Paul confronted Peter so publicly and directly?
- Why is it important that we walk in step with the gospel?
- Why is it important that we stand for the gospel?

Application:

- Does your current position in the gospel match your profession?
- What pressures to abandon the gospel do you currently face in society, home, work, and/or church?
- How does the gospel help you combat those pressures?
- Why is it difficult to confront a brother or sister in Christ who is out of line with the gospel or living in hypocrisy? What are some specific principles of biblical confrontation from this passage that can help guide you?

