

Growing Deeper Continued:

- **False Brethren** – Greek: *pseudadelphos*; “those claiming to be part of the church who did **not** have saving faith in Christ” (Cf. 2 Cor. 11:26).
 - **Sneaked in to spy out** – Greek: *pareisakatos kataskopeo*; “smuggled in to plot against with treachery”
 - **Bondage** – Greek: *katadouloo*; “entirely enslaved; reduced to absolute slavery”
-
- What does it mean when Paul says that “*the false brothers sneaked in to spy out our liberty*” (v. 4)? What “Freedom” was Paul referring too? How did the “false brothers” attempt to change the gospel of Jesus (Cf. Gal. 5:1; 13)? How did the Judaizers intend on bringing believers back into bondage, to enslave them once again? Have you enslaved yourself with legalism?
 - **Justification (Gal. 2:16)** – What is Pastor’s Matthew’s definition of justification? **READ and interpret the following Scriptures regarding justification: Romans 3:20; 3:28; 5:1; 5:9; Gal. 3:11; Titus 3:5-7.** What is your clear understanding of justification; is it through faith in Jesus Christ or is it by works?

Taking it Home:

- A result of Christ’s death (substitutionary sacrifice) is justification for the believing sinner. Justification is also a legal act in which God the Judge declares the believing sinner righteous. **Examine yourself** (Cf. 2 Cor. 13:5): Do you believe you are justified by Jesus Christ’s death on the cross, alone; or is it up to you (your works) to earn salvation and the favor of God? (Titus 3:3-7).
- Any departure from the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is worthy of confrontation. Do you find yourself, like Peter, being drawn to be a people pleaser or being drawn to be a part of a popular religious clique? Are you, like Peter, fearful (v. 12) of standing firmly for the true gospel of Jesus Christ? **READ and memorize Galatians 2:20.** Also read and interpret the manifestation of Christ’s love for the believer through His sacrificial death on the cross **Romans 5:6-8; 6:2-6; 8:9-10; John 10:17-18.**
- Has this study confused you? Has the simple and clear gospel of Christ been clarified to you? Has this study today challenged you to dig deeper into God’s Word to know sound doctrine?

Justified by Faith

Notes:

My List:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 20, 2012

Galatians 2:1-21

Quick Review:

The core of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that sinners are justified not by works but by faith in Jesus Christ. "Works of the law" will not help anyone become righteous. This is profoundly liberating, and yet very threatening to the hearts of those who intellectually know this to be true. Paul derides works-oriented hypocrisy, reminding us that we are made right, not by human effort, but by faith in Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us sinners.

My Story:

- How credible is peer pressure; is it for real? Why do people get drawn into peer pressure even if they know it's not what they should do? Have you ever given into peer pressure? Share your experience.
- Did you ever voluntarily fit into "a group of people" (clique) even though you knew "the group" you were falling into was **not correct**? In essence, you were giving up your convictions so you could be identified with a group of people that appeared to be the popular "in crowd?" Why did you knowingly compromise your convictions just so you could be a part of the popular group? Discuss.
- What are the dangers of being part of a clique or "the in crowd" when you know the clique you're a part of is erroneous? Explain.

Growing Deeper:

- Paul confronts the apostle Peter (Cephas) about his alignment with the Judaizers and his departure from the Gentile Christians. **READ Galatians 2:11-16.** What was Peter doing wrong that caused Paul to confront him in public? Why would an apostle with the credentials of Peter's be compelled to "temporarily align" himself with a hypocritical group of false teachers like the Judaizers? Was Peter giving into 1st century peer pressure? Share your thoughts.
- How difficult is it to confront someone about errors of biblical doctrinal position (like Paul had to confront Peter in v. 11)? Have you ever had to rebuke someone who was teaching false doctrine? How difficult do you think it was for Paul to rebuke the apostle Peter, a man who was considered one of "*high reputation*" in the Church (v. 6)? How important is having correct Biblical doctrine (knowing God's Word)? **READ and Interpret: Psalm 119:11; 1 Timothy 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2:24-26; 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12. Share your discoveries.**
- **In Gal. 2:11-14**, Paul states that "*he opposed Peter to his face because he stood condemned.*" What did Pastor Matthew say about why Peter stood condemned; what had Peter done wrong that brought about Paul's stern rebuke against him? Shouldn't Peter, the reputed chief of the apostles, have known better than to align himself with the Judaizers? (**Cf. Acts 15:1; 1 Cor. 15:33**). If the apostle Peter can fall into legalism, what does that say about believers living today? Are believers immune from falling back into bondage and legalism? Discuss.
- It is apparent why Paul brought his mentee, Titus, along on his Jerusalem trip; he was a test case. Would the Jerusalem apostles force the rite of circumcision on a Gentile believer (Gal. 2:3-5)? Paul lays out his thesis that both Jews and Gentiles are accepted by God through faith in Christ Jesus alone, not by customs taught by Moses! Paul exposes the Judaizers evil plan - **NOTICE** three extremely powerful words Paul uses to describe the Judaizers (false brothers) in v. 4: