

# Dear Church,



## THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

Discussion Guide

September 18

Galatians 2:11-21

1. Share about the time when you received really good news— news that offered hope or change in the midst of a desperate situation.
2. A basic definition of the word gospel is “good news.” Read Romans 5:6-8, Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:1-10. Then answer the following questions to help you appreciate just how good this “good news” of the Christian gospel is.
  - In what desperate situation do we find ourselves before we receive the gospel?
  - What good news does the gospel proclaim in the midst of our helpless situation?
  - What is the right response to this good news? (Hint: Focus in on Ephesians 2:8-9.)
3. Now read Galatians 1:3-5. Briefly discuss where you see important elements of the gospel message there.
4. Read Galatians 2:11-21. What is going on in this situation? How had Peter drifted from the gospel?
5. Why was this situation important for Paul to confront? What might have happened if Paul had “let things slide” and had not addressed the situation? (Check out Galatians 1:6-9 if you need some help answering this.)
6. In Galatians 2:14-21, Paul calls Peter back to the truth of the gospel. Two important “gospel truths” are included in what Paul says:
  - Paul highlights “justification by faith in Jesus Christ” (vv. 15-16). Being “justified” means we’re declared righteous in God’s sight; we’re accepted and approved by Him. Why is this such good news? What difference should this make in our lives?
  - Paul highlights “living by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (v. 20). Look at this verse closely and discuss ways it should motivate a gospel-centered obedience.
7. In your own words, summarize why the truth of the gospel is so important that we must keep it front-and-center. What are some practical ways to do this?
8. Challenge: Memorize Galatians 2:20: “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.”