

## 09.04.11 / Galatians 2:11-14

**PLEASE NOTE:**

For the foreseeable future, the Curriculum Guide will be a little different from our typical format. We are trying some new approaches as we make the shift to match the schedules of the Durham and Raleigh East campuses in our weekly study of Scripture. The guide will be closely linked with the actual sermon and will include sermon notes, application questions, and a section on prayer.

**Sermon Notes**

One thing we see consistently in Scripture is that God's kingdom will prevail. Christ has already won the victory over sin and death, and the work of redemption that God alone has done is finished, according to Christ. This is remarkably good news, and it affords us many practical freedoms. Among them:

- Freedom from the law
- Freedom to live and love creatively
- Freedom to use our natural gifts to reflect God to the world
- Freedom to love and serve others without focusing on what we will receive in return
- Freedom to be used by God to accomplish His purposes, His mission
- Freedom to lovingly remind one another of our true identities in Christ

Were it not for the finished work on the cross, these privileges would not be ours – we would still be enslaved to our old identities, identities founded on ruthless selfishness that sought only to fulfill ourselves and to meet our own needs and desires above all else. For those who have been drawn by God to Himself and who are saved, while we may see vestiges of our old sinful ways as we continually grow accustomed to our new identity in Christ, our reality is not defined by such sin – our reality is instead defined by the status and identity of Christ Jesus.

When Paul confronts Peter, he makes it clear to his brother in Christ that there is NOTHING apart from Christ that can bring righteousness. Likewise, when we are in Christ, there is nothing we can do or that can be done to us that can separate us from His love. Paul sees that Peter, in a moment that reflects his FORMER sinful identity, fears others more than he loves God, and he corrects him for this misrepresentation of God. How great and glorious is the loving correction of a brother or sister in Christ who longs for us to lean into and live in the freedom that Christ has secured for us rather than in our own short-sighted, sinful ways. Consider the following verses from Proverbs that remind us of the value and power of loving correction and rebuke:

Proverbs 9:8

... reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son hears his father's instruction,  
But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 27:5

Better is open rebuke  
Than hidden love.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron,  
And one man sharpens another.

Ultimately loving rebuke and correction among members of the body of Christ result in greater unity within the body and a more accurate reflection of the nature and character of our God. This typically takes many reminders from Scripture, teaching, preaching, and simple conversations with fellow believers who long to remind us of the GOOD NEWS that Jesus Christ has shared with us His true identity for all of eternity. Galatians 2:20 reminds us that our lives are no longer our own, that our sin has ultimately been destroyed, and that Christ lives in us. For those who are in Christ, THIS is our true identity, and it is GOOD NEWS!

### Application Questions

- 1) How have others loved you by offering correction and rebuke?
- 2) What actions in your life were not in step with the truth of the gospel?
- 3) What specifically is the gospel changing in your life right now?
- 4) What's the good news about who you truly are if you are in Christ?
- 5) How does this news change how you live?

### Prayer

- Pray to God that we would live according to our true identities in Christ
- Pray that the Father would draw people to Himself through the truth of His Word
- Pray for conversions of the doubters and seekers who are among us