

Gospel Conduct: Galatians 2:11-14

Opening Illustration – Robbie – In that moment I had a choice to believe the gospel or not?
What we will see is that Peter faces the same issue here...

Main Idea – The Gospel should direct our conduct not morality - - We grow in Christ the same way we came to Christ by faith (through the gospel) and this shapes our conduct, like racism

Text Breakdown:

First 11-13 Peter's Problem – Hypocrisy and what it produces

Finally 14, Paul's Response – Paul fights sin (CAMP OUT HERE)

Questions to ponder from the Text: How should we fight sin?

I. (11-13) Peter's hypocrisy and its fallout

Verse 11 – *But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*

- **We see first in Peter's hypocrisy:**
 - **Even Leaders can stray and sin...** (Elders) *Even the best men are still men...*
 - **And we see that Paul loves the gospel and Peter** for that matter to the point that he would do the uncomfortable work of confronting Peter
 - **This must have been awkward...** 2 of the studs of the NT are about to UFC

How was he being hypocritical? Verse 12

- **He initially understood the dividing wall had been broken – grace to all:** Acts tells us he ate and fellowshiped with gentiles (living like a gentile the text says), and this behavior made sense because Acts records that it came about from a dream/direct revelation that he should do this.
- **Now he is a hypocrite:** And yet the circumcision party (those that hold that circumcision, part of the law, is necessary for salvation) cause him to separate from them...
 - **To break meal fellowship (importance of the meal)** and he ostracizes gentiles by his behavior
- **(v. 13) And his actions lead others astray** – our actions either have positive or negative influence...
 - **Bad example – Paul on skateboard**
 - **Good example – Cardenas – spur us on...**

Application: We must do the hard working of confronting for the gospel in our community... if we love Christ and our brothers and sisters when we see clear signs of being out of step with the truth of the gospel

How does Paul confront Peter? How does Paul get at the sin of racism?

II. (14) Paul fights sin with the gospel, not the law

ILL: (INTRODUCE MY STORY... SOME OF YOU CAN RELATE WITH MY STORY...)

Verse 14 – *But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas, before them all, if you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?*

- **In order to fight like Paul does we have to see all decisions as an opportunity to believe or reject the gospel**
 - o **“NOT IN STEP/Eph2” Paul rebukes Peter for not believing the gospel and understanding its implications as he should** – As Paul will go on later to point out that God has broken down the wall of racism in Christ’s death (Eph. 2) something that Peter understood initially as he ate with gentiles but then retreated back from later

- **It was not as though Peter had “lost” his salvation, certainly not. Instead, it was that at the moment he had failed to believe the gospel and live out its implications**

- **And in order to fight sin, we have to understand that the way we enter the Christian life, is the same way we grow in the Christian life**
 - o **It is important to see how he rebukes Paul, which might be much different than the way we confront with sin, or even teach our children to refrain from sin...** we would say you know bad people are racists or good Christians aren’t racists...

- **Gal. 3 – we have to stop believing that the law (morality) will produce righteousness in us... it can reveal it but it cannot change our hearts, pre or post conversion**
 - o **We have generally held that the gospel justifies us**
 - **Gospel Justification – EXPLAIN JUSTIFICATION = being declared righteous (firstborn) and we are only justified by faith in Christ... same with sanctification**

 - o **We have missed Gospel Sanctification** (*gives the idea that we see the gospel as a hoop and then the rest of the Christian life is a list of rules...*)
 - **That is why we continue to create Pharisees, we fight sin wrong**

- **So a dilemma Matt 23 and Matt. 5** – Jesus is far less concerned with conformity to rule or morality and far more concerned with condition of your heart. HE TAKES IT FURTHER

- **Paul fights sin by going after the heart, not external morality – he recognizes that there is something deeper than racism going on (human approval, social acceptance)**
 - o Paul understands that exterior conformity to morality is not enough – it is the heart that needs changing, not just for unbeliever but for the believer as well. He confronts racism with the gospel, not morality
 - **This is why so many young Christians walk away... they are sold that Christian life is about what we do... not what has been done** – if we are going to get after real change we have to go after the heart... not external morality (Pharisees had that down)

- **And what we must see is that Paul knows there are deeper idols producing racism and there are deeper idols producing our sin as well... FUNCTIONAL SAVIORS**
 - o **Keller Lying** – He did for human approval
 - **So why do we lie?** Yes we are sinners, but we have a deeper problem than lying, we have idols – Keller wants human approval – He realized he never lied simply because he was bad, but at the moment he lied something other than Christ was more important to him,

for self image and happiness, human approval. He said with his head he believed the gospel and Jesus loves me, but deep down had a functional savior

- **Two ways to combat lying** – say bad Christian you know better, and that puts pressure on the will, and it actually gets you to stop lying, but you strengthen the idol of human approval – OR YOU CAN TURN TO ANOTHER SAVIOR

- **What is the idol of Peter here?** Social acceptance...
 - Paul solves PETER'S RACISM not with a simple exhortation to “**be better Christians,**” but by calling them to live out the implications of the Gospel - understand that your racism evidences a lack of belief in the gospel

And if we are going to fight sin, we have to do it the same way... with the Gospel

So how can we fight sin?

First, know the Gospel – everything is not the gospel, but gospel has all kinds of implications

- **So what is the Gospel?** So much confusion here...
 - *And the truth is that we have a story/ a gospel that makes sense of the world, it does not simply get you to heaven when you die, it makes sense of all reality*
 - **We have to stop minimizing the gospel... it is not an aisle...a prayer... a list of rules... that kind of teaching is what has produced in our midst Pharisees...**
 - **Question:** If I asked you to define or tell me the gospel could you?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL –I am going to tell you the gospel in the midst of the story that I think makes sense of the whole world

Grand Narrative, Grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone

HOW DOES JESUS OVERTURN EVERYTHING THAT WAS FRACTURED, THROUGH THE SUBSTIONARY ATONEMENT – HE FIXES ALL THREE FRACTURES FROM GENESIS 3 – BY BECOMING A CURSE FOR US – HE IS NOW RESTORING THE COSMOS BEGUN AT HIS RESURRECTION AS NEW CREATION WALKED OUT OF A GRAVE

Unbeliever in here, we want you to believe this message... Jesus will have you... turn to Him

But believer in here, this message is for you to stand in every day – this message is what will conform you into the image of Christ

Second, Identify Idols

- WE MUST SEE THAT SIN AT ITS ROOT IS A FAILURE TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL
- **Luther on larger catechism** –you see we will never break the other commandments without **breaking the first** – Ten Commandments – the first commandment “Thou Shalt Have No Other gods before me” is really the same thing as the “Just will live by faith” – This is the heart of the gospel justification by faith alone
 - **So when we sin, we don't believe the gospel, because at that moment we believe that something else is justifying us...** like the law or other idols

- **We see this in Peter in this passage...** V. 14 - *if you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?*
- **He is threatening Justification by faith in two ways...which is what v. 15-16 are getting at: first by implying that circumcision (or the law) is necessary to be saved (LEGALISM)...**
 - **and second** by having a functional savior in the place of Jesus... seeing something else as his worth – human approval
- **If he had truly believed the gospel as he should, in that moment he would have seen the gospel's work as more dear to him than the social awkwardness** – then he would have understood that it is good and right for him to show mercy to the gentiles because of the great mercy that was shown him in Christ at the cross.
 - At that moment he saw social acceptance as more precious to him than Christ and the Gospel... His functional savior at that moment was the applause of others
- SO REAL CHANGE HAS TO HAPPEN AT THE HEART LEVEL...NOT IN EXTERNAL MORALITY WE HAVE TO ROOT OUT IDOLS/FUNCTIONAL SAVIORS BY SEEKING OUR JUSTIFICATION IN CHRIST AND NO ONE ELSE...
- **WE all have idols or a functional saviors**
 - **Example – Rocky**
 - ANOTHER WAY TO SAY IT IS JESUS +++ (JESUS + NOTHING IS JUSTIFICATION)
 - **You have to kill the idols by believing in the sufficiency of the gospel to save you... and nothing else... AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE GOSPEL TO GROW YOU**

FINALLY, Apply the Gospel to sin (LETS LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES of how we can root out idols and fight sin with the gospel)

How does this work? – I have begun to ask myself “*what does the gospel say about this?*”

- **ANGER**
 - JORDAN – When we blow up in fury in traffic cause it causes us to be late, it shows we claim to believe in a God who was patient with us in pursuing us and forgiving us of our sins but we cannot be patient with others.
- **RACISM – HOW ABOUT THE SIN HERE IN THIS PASSAGE?**
 - **GEORGE QUOTE:** *Racism of any brand in any culture is incompatible with the truth of the Gospel*
 - **If we understand Grace, and that Christ has died for all the peoples,** than how can we feel superior to anyone... are we really poor in spirit if we feel superiority to anyone...
 - **Jesus is the example here,** he ate and drank with tax collectors... he welcomed in all people and at the **great banquet there will be people from every tribe...**
 - **SBC RAISING MONEY FOR AFRICA...**
 - **WE WELCOME ALL... BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN WELCOMED...**

Application: Whom do you socialize with? Who do you retreat back from because of social pressure? This doesn't just have to be a race thing... but who are you hanging out with?

- **SOCIAL APPROVAL – I BELIEVE THIS IS MAIN REASON WE ARE NOT EVANGELISTIC**

- **FORGIVENESS**

- Opposite sides of the church...
- Holding ten year grudges against family members....
- We preach a message that the gospel is enough to forgive us of sins we commit against Christ but not forgive sins that others have done against us – It doesn't matter what we preach, sing, say – WE AREN'T BELIEVING THE GOSPEL

THE GREAT THING ABOUT THE BIBLE, IS THAT THIS IS HOW THE APOSTLES ADDRESS SIN AND BIG ISSUES

- **GENEROSITY**

- We can say we believe in a generous Gospel but when our iphone bill keeps us from sacrificially giving to meet the needs of the poor it is because we do not really believe that Jesus became poor so that we could become rich in Him (2 Cor. 8:9).
- Why don't people give away their money according to Jonathan Edwards? They don't believe the gospel, we don't really believe Jesus is our savior, something else is.

- **MARRIAGE OR RELATIONSHIPS – STDS AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES ARE NOT THE REASON TRUE LOVE WAITS...**

- SEEING OUR SATISFACTION AND VALUE IN A PERSON
- PORNOGRAPHY... APPETITES - -1 COR. 6

- **RADICAL LIVING– To live is Christ – Jim Eliot – CARDONAS (UNTOUCHABLE)**

PRACTICALLY– *how do we now apply this gospel in such a way that our conduct is in step with the truth of the gospel?*

1. Know the gospel

2. Memorize and preach the gospel to yourself

3. Read the Bible rightly – this is how the apostles write - read the bible rightly – cannot divorce commands from the truth of the gospel

- a. **The way we read the temptation NARRATIVE helps us turn our children into good Pharisees but it misses the point**

4. Ask of everything how does the gospel apply to this?

5. Do this in community:

- a. **Learn to speak it into every situation – Barley** (this wont come over night... need prayer, study, community, and the Spirit) **BE LIKE PAUL AND BE A SOLIDER WHO DEFENDS THE GOSPEL**

- b. **Please hit this hard in small group Challenge** and encourage one another, receive rebuke/challenge humbly (CROSS AND CRITICISM)

6. Identify idols, functional saviors

7. And Hold Christ as more precious than anything this World can give you or anything that death can take away from you... All I have is Christ (He is my only justification) – this is how we will kill idols

Unbeliever in here, turn to Christ (chance to do that in a minute)

Believer in here, turn to Christ

ROBBIE - - IN THAT MOMENT I HAD REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, I FIGURED THAT FOR THINGS TO BE MADE RIGHT I HAD TO LASH BACK, I DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE JUSTICE OF GOD WOULD FALL

- AT GOLGOTHA

- AT JUDGMENT

- The only message that can change me and make me the kind of person who accepts a hit to the cheek and turns the other one is the gospel... remember we follow the one that when he was reviled he did not revile in return
- THE ANSWER FOR PETER AND ME... IS TURN TO CHRIST
- And he is all we need... he is our only justification... turn to him, walk in step with the truth of the gospel...