



Integrating the Gospel Galatians 2:11-14

Ted began his sermon with a story about sections of his fence being knocked down by the fierce storm we had last week. The wild winds were part of the problem, but the rotten posts were what ultimately caused his fence to topple. We're going to look at what can happen when we fail to protect our foundations and the damage that can result. Let's dig in!

Getting Started

C.S. Lewis is a well-known and well-loved author for many reasons. The following quote with its amazing ability to penetrate to our depths and bring conviction demonstrates why he has the well-deserved reputation he enjoys. Read and discuss.

Anyone who has ever taught or attempted to lead others knows the tendency in all of us toward exaggerating our depth of character while treating leniently our flaws. The Bible calls this tendency hypocrisy. We consciously or subconsciously put forward a better image of ourselves than really exists. The outward appearance of our character and the inner reality (that only God, we, and perhaps our family members know) do not match. from *The Four Loves*

Paul confronts Peter ... Galatians 2:11-13

The situation: hypocrisy

Observations:

- It is possible to know the gospel of grace and yet fail to live it.
- Our tendency is to mask our flaws.
- Our failures are often rooted in fear.
- Our hypocrisies affect the faith of others.

- How do these verses fit in with what we've read so far?
- Why are we so influenced by what other people think?
- How do Peter's actions mirror our own in similar situations?

- What is the issue? What is the real problem?
- How can we protect ourselves from this danger?
- How are you most tempted toward hypocrisy?

Paul challenges Peter to consider the state of his heart ... 2:14

The cure: honest reflection

Observations:

- Hypocrisy is a serious blow to the gospel.
- We need others to challenge us.
- Honesty – not perfection is needed ...

- How are you influenced by our common Christian culture?
- Why did Paul confront Peter as he did?
- How does Paul & Peter's interaction model relationships for us?

- How are people turned off by this culture?
- What do you think Peter was thinking? Why?
- What do we learn about *all* believers here?

Theological Reflection ...

Ted asked everyone to spend a little time at some point after the sermon to reflect on the following questions. Share the results of this reflection as you discuss the extended questions below.

1. In what areas do you wear a mask? What areas are you hiding in order to hold things together?
2. How will you begin to remove that mask? Be specific. Who do you need to open up to?

Application

Each group member should come up with a specific application from the study.

- Review the outline points. Which resonates most with you?
- What will you do to foster a relationship like Paul & Peter's?

- How have you been affected by hypocrisy?
- How would you most like to be challenged?

Prayer

Group members should have an application-specific item as their first prayer request.

Please *pray* for everyone at TCBC. *Pray* that we would develop and foster the kind of relationships we see in this passage. *Thank* God for working in our lives through one another. *Ask* Him to continue making His presence obvious at TCBC.