



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Galatians 2:11-16

Introduction: In this passage Paul recounts an interaction he had with Peter in the city of Antioch. Peter was enjoying table fellowship with Gentile Christians but after Jewish Christians arrived he and others separated themselves from the Gentile Christians. Paul publicly confronted Peter because this separation was “out of step with the truth of the Gospel”. Ultimately this story clarifies the heart of the Gospel and describes how we can protect and promote Gospel culture among us.



Into the Word

Consider verses 11-14. Why was Paul especially upset at Peter’s conduct in Antioch? What were the consequences of Peter’s conduct?

Note: Consider Paul’s previous meeting with Peter, James, and John in Jerusalem.

What motivated Peter to pull away from the Gentile Christians? What did Peter have to fear from the circumcision party?

Note: Though table fellowship with Gentiles was not forbidden by God’s Law it was shunned by the traditions of the Pharisees.

Paul says, “we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ” (v. 16). What does it mean to be justified? How are we justified? What is the difference between “the works of the law” and “faith in Jesus Christ”? (Compare: Romans 3:20)

Note: Justification means to be declared righteous in God’s sight.

Resource: [Justification](#)



Into the Heart

Paul says, “a person is not justified by works of the law”. Where are you tempted to look to feel like you are a good person? How is this enslaving?

Consider: Galatians 5:3

How is receiving and resting in Christ’s righteousness alone freeing?

Resource: [Everyday Justification](#)



Into the World

How does seeking our own righteousness affect our relationships with other Christians? How does resting in the righteous of Christ alone enable us to enjoy deeper fellowship with other Christians?

What does this passage teach us about how to promote and protect Gospel culture?