

# “Gospel Unity”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

## Message Summary

Shortly after Paul planted the churches in the southern region of Galatia false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, these false teachers taught people their righteousness was based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Paul wrote in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

Paul, along with his message, was attacked by these false brothers in the churches of Galatia. But this wasn’t the first time this had happened to Paul. Fourteen years after his conversion, Paul made a second post-conversion trip to Jerusalem. While his trip involved providing relief for the famine in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30), Paul also went up in order to make sure he was unified with the mother church and prevent a division in Christianity among Jews and Gentiles. While he was there, men who Paul referred to as “false brothers” challenged his friend Titus because he had not been circumcised, even though he was Greek.

Paul not only addressed these charges but clarified the Gospel message among the leaders of the Jerusalem church in order to maintain unity within the entire Church of Jesus Christ. Paul believed Gospel unity was imperative to preserve the church, the truth of God’s word, and the mission of taking the Gospel to all people in all nations.

Gospel unity is necessary for the same reasons within the church today. Without Gospel unity our churches will, as Paul said, “run in vain.” In other words our churches will make little to no lasting impact for the sake of the Kingdom of Christ without a unified message. The Gospel is not only good news for your eternal life but it is also good news for your life today. Therefore when we address matters of life, we must address them with a unified Gospel that brings hope to every aspect of life.

As you think about conflicts within our culture today, how does the Gospel you believe affect these aspects of your life? How does it compare to the message proclaimed by other churches? Do you work alongside other churches for the sake of spreading the same Gospel message? Do you approach difficult circumstances, troubles, trials, tragedies, and sorrows through the lens of the Gospel of Jesus? The Gospel is the only hope for brokenness in our world. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community examine these questions and the questions on the next page and be ready to discuss how you relate to others in Gospel Unity!

## Message Outline

Gospel unity preserves...

### 1. **The Church. (1-2)**

Gospel clarity is foundational for the church.

Unity and autonomy go hand in hand.

The Church is not immune to false brothers:

- They are counterfeit believers who are sometimes received into the fellowship.
- They secretly & systematically seek to destroy the church.
- Their motive is to rule over others.
- Their methods result in unethical behavior stemming from unbelieving theology.

### 2. **The Truth. (3-5)**

The truth of the Gospel is:

- Grace brings freedom.
- Law brings bondage.

### 3. **The Mission. (6-10)**

While we practically divide the work...

We have the same:

- Credentials – grace.
- Message – gospel.
- Mission – go to all people.
- Ministry – give (all of life).

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### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 2:1-10:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
  - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
  - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
  - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
  - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
  - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
  - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
  - Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.