

“Gospel Conduct”

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.

Even though Paul was attacked by these “false brothers,” during his second post-conversion trip to Jerusalem, he spoke to the Jerusalem apostles and they gave him and Barnabas “the right hand of fellowship.” They all agreed that Paul and Barnabas would take the Gospel to the Gentiles while the Jerusalem apostles would go to the Jews. Sometime afterward, while the apostle Peter was in Antioch, he spent much time eating with the Gentiles because he was now free in Christ to do so. However, certain men from Jerusalem came to Antioch and out of fear for these men Peter drew back from the Gentiles and stopped eating with them. As a result, the other Jewish Christians and even Barnabas drew back from the Gentiles and refused to eat with them. Paul saw this as sin and a misrepresentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Consequently, Paul confronted Peter and publically rebuked him for acting hypocritically and leading other believers to do the same. Peter had gotten the Gospel wrong. His fear of others led him to act out of step with the Gospel and influenced others to do the same. Paul understood that those who believe the Gospel are changed by the Gospel and live by the Gospel. He knew Peter must be confronted so as to lead the church to guard herself against legalism.

So how are we to respond to the Gospel? Our conduct as Christians, just like believers during Paul’s day, must be in step with the truth of the Gospel. Doctrine and duty go together. The Gospel is good news not only for eternal life but for daily living. While Jesus’ perfect sacrifice made it possible for us to live forever with Him in eternity it also made a way through the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life on earth. As we trust in Christ’s righteousness for salvation we also recognize our daily need for the Gospel. This daily recognition fuels us to live in light of the Gospel by serving others sacrificially, showing them the life of Jesus through our lives, and sharing the Good News with them as often as possible. This is Gospel Conduct!

Message Outline

What happens when we get the Gospel wrong?

1. Our fear of people determines our conduct.
2. Our influence over people changes their conduct.

The Gospel affects our conduct because it:

1. Has authority over our lives.
2. Reveals sin that must be addressed.
3. Confronts legalism & relativism.

Therefore, let’s live our lives:

1. In the freedom of Christ’s righteousness.
2. In recognition of our daily need for the Gospel.
3. In order to serve, show, and share Jesus with others.

Missional Community Guide
“Gospel Conduct”

New Day Church

William Whaley

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Galatians 2:11-14

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 2:11-14:

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.