

Galatians 2:11-19

Launch:

It's about to get real this morning. We are about to find out how much trust your students have in each other. Pick one student volunteer. Have him or her go around the class and answer this question about each person: On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you trust this person?

This is where it starts to get very real. Have the highest ranking individual step forward. If more than one person got the highest number, have the original student say who he or she trusts most of all. Then, and only then, inform the students that they will be performing a trust fall. A trust fall, of course, is where the original student will cross his or her arms and fall backwards into the arms of the most trusted student. The student does have the option to opt out of the trust fall if desired, but this exposes the actual lack of trust. It is when the trust fall actually happens that the true level of trust is put to the test.

Just like a trust fall demonstrates trust in a friend, true submission to the gospel demonstrates trust in Jesus. To put full trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ is to understand that there is nothing we need to do or even can do to add to or take away for what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Highlight: Which verse spoke to you this week?

Explain:

The second section of Galatians 2, which begins in verse 11, shows a confrontation between Paul and Peter. Peter, who physically walked with Jesus for three years, knew the gospel. The truth of the gospel had been made abundantly clear to him. There is one way to God, which is through Jesus. However, in the Jewish world, there were a group of people called the Judaizers, who believed and taught that salvation was through Jesus as well as the keeping of the Jewish law. Peter knew this to be false, however, he affirmed these people publicly when they were present. This hypocritical action by Peter led many astray from the true gospel. Out of this narrative, we can see two major problems into which Christians can fall. The first is the problem of the Judaizers and the second is the problem of Peter. These two respective problems are legalism and hypocrisy. Legalism is the problem of creating arbitrary rules to try to earn favor with God. Hypocrisy, on the other hand, is the problem of believing and preaching one thing, but living

differently. We must remember that there is no other gospel. Nothing can be added or taken away from the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, it is not enough to say it. We must live consistently with this gospel.

Apply:

1. Read verse 12. How can we see Peter's hypocrisy play out in this verse?
2. Verse 14 states, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile." How does living like a Jew in this passage, reflect a lack of trust in the gospel?
3. We as Christians need to trust that Justification is by faith alone. Why is it significant that we view Justification as a one-time declaration as opposed to a process?
4. The entire worldview of the Judaizers demonstrated a lack of trust in Jesus. It was as if Jesus was not enough, so they trusted in their own good works as well. How do we find ourselves sometimes demonstrating this same lack of trust?
5. How can we actively put our trust in Christ alone as we live our daily lives?