

11/15/20 Message

Part of Counterfeit Character

November 14, 2020

Message: Sneakers

Series: Counterfeit Character

Recap: We're in the 2nd message in our ***Counterfeit Character*** series which is taken from the New Testament book of Galatians. Counterfeit (by definition) means made in imitation of something else with intent to deceive. Do you know any counterfeit people? Around 50 A.D. a coup was rising in the first century church. The Judaizers were robbing the church of their freedom through legalism. The false teachers were claiming to be saved, in addition to believing in Jesus, you also must keep the law of Moses (Mosaic Law). Paul wrote to the Galatians (many churches in the region of Galatia) to tell the truth, and combat the lies of "another" gospel. The theme is by grace alone, through faith alone.

Paul Establishes His Credibility

Galatians 1:11-24 (NLT)

11 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning.

12 I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it.

14 I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him

16 to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.

17 Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I

returned to the city of Damascus.

18 Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days.

19 The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother.

20 I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

21 After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn't know me personally.

23 All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!"

24 And they praised God because of me.

Galatians 2:1-10 (NLT)

1 Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too.

2 I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing.

3 And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile.

4 Even that question came up only because of some so-called Christians there—false ones, really—who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations.

5 But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you.

6 And the leaders of the church had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favorites.)

7 Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews.

8 For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles.

9 In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the

church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews.

10 Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.

- Paul is confirming, he is a TRUE APOSTLE
- Paul is confirming, he is teaching a TRUE GOSPEL

He has evidence to back up his claim. First, the apostles and leaders in Jerusalem recognized his apostleship and approved of his teaching. Second, he confronted and corrected Peter when Peter was showing preference to the Judaizers and their false system of legalism.

- Through Paul, we see the importance of your LIVING TESTIMONY

The Judaizers were teaching

- Jesus AND

Paul was teaching

- Jesus ONLY

Paul Encounters “Sneakers”

Definition: Sneaker = one that sneaks (sneaking is moving about furtively, meaning in a quiet and secretive way to avoid being noticed)

Are you a sneaker? Do you know a sneaker?

The Galatian church had them.

In Galatians 2:4, Paul called the sneakers:

- SO CALLED Christians
- FALSE ONES operating in secret

What did they do? They sneaked in to...

- SPY (secretly collect information)
- STEAL (take away freedom)
- ENSLAVE (force them to follow)

Paul had seen this happen in Jerusalem; it wasn't new.

Paul's Instructions

- You should REFUSE to give in (v5)
- You should PRESERVE the truth (v5)
- You should KEEP PREACHING (v9)
- You should KEEP HELPING (v10)

As an example, Paul tells them about Peter, James, and John, and he calls them:

- PILLARS of the church

1 Timothy 3:15 (NLT)

...you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Revelation 3:12 (NLT)

All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it...

He is telling the Galatians – you should be pillars of your church! Paul is telling us, we should be pillars of our church! Pillars refuse to give in to the enemy, preserve the truth of the Gospel, keep preaching and sharing Jesus with the world, and keep on helping, ministering, and sharing the love of Jesus by serving.

Are you a pillar in the church?

If you were suddenly gone, would it negatively impact the church?

Would your absence create a void in the fellowship?

You were created...

- for His GLORY (Isaiah 43:7)

- for His PURPOSE (Exodus 9:16)

- for His WORKS (Ephesians 2:10)

You were created for HIM (Colossians 1:16)

Are you a fully committed, faithfully serving, part of the family of God at Fellowship Community Church?

Be a pillar of your church!