

11/22/20 Message

Part of Counterfeit Character

November 20, 2020

Message: Peer Pressure

Series: Counterfeit Character

Recap: We're in the 3rd 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 Confronts Peer Pressure

Galatians 2:11-21 (NLT)

11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong.

12 When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision.

13 As a result, other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

14 When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"

15 "You and I are Jews by birth, not 'sinners' like the Gentiles.

16 Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus

Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

17 But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not!

18 Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down.

19 For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.

20 My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

21 I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Here are some things that happen when peer pressure surfaces in a church:

- GOSSIP overrides GRACE
- MEANNESS overrides MERCY
- DISCONTENT overrides JOY
- EVIL overrides GOOD
- SCORN overrides LOVE

- Peer Pressure works off the principle of FEAR

Six types of Peer Pressure

- SPOKEN
- UNSPOKEN
- DIRECT
- INDIRECT
- NEGATIVE
- POSITIVE

Paul “opposed” Peter to his face (v.11). It connects strongly with:

Matthew 18:15

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the

offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

How do you approach someone who offends you?

- Go PRIVATELY

Peter's actions sparked peer pressure in the church. (v.13)

- Not living out what you say you believe is HYPOCRISY
- The ONLY WAY to be right with God is by faith in Jesus Christ!
- If at any point I choose ANYTHING above my relationship with Jesus, I'm sinning against Him.

Key Verse

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Paul says in v.21, if it's anything but Christ, it makes the grace of God meaningless... it makes Jesus dying on the cross meaningless. It makes your life meaningless.

Tools to Resist Peer Pressure

- Live for God ALONE (Deuteronomy 6:5; James 1:5)
- Avoid bad COMPANY (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- Be READY (Psalm 118:6)
- Be FIRM (1 Peter 3:17)
- Be an EXAMPLE (Matthew 5:14-16)
- Trust in God (2 Chronicles 16:9)