

Encounter with Grace 1: “A Family Feud”

You might need an Encounter with Grace if...

- You live with a sense of **guilt** & **shame** over your past
- You have **regrets** or use “**should**” or “**shouldn’t have**” a lot
- You are prone to **legalism** or beguiled by **religion**
- You have a **low self-esteem** OR exhibit **Pharisaical piety**
- You suffer abnormal **anxiety stress** & **fear** with uncertainty

“Intolerance for uncertainty is the mantra for anxiety”

- You tend to be a **control freak**
- You have **perfectionism** & **OCD** tendencies
- You are **critical** & **judgmental** toward yourself & others
- You struggle with **doubtful thoughts** about God & eternity
- You fight your **hurts**, **habits** & **hang-ups** without success

Helping you overcome these challenges is EXACTLY WHY our Life Group Fall Campaign is focused on “Grace for Life” with Pastor Tim Keller AND WHY our team will be leading you on Sunday mornings toward an “Encounter with Grace” **Galatians 2:11-14** “A Family Feud: the story of how the first church almost split over race again!” (First division Acts 6)

Galatians 2:11-12 “...when **Peter came to Antioch**, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, **he ate with the Gentile believers**, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, **Peter wouldn’t eat** with the Gentiles anymore. He **[Peter] was afraid of criticism** from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision.

Galatians 2:13-14 “As a result, other **Jewish believers followed Peter’s hypocrisy**, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 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?’”

The **Jerusalem Church**: founded on the Day of Pentecost **AD 33**: exclusively Jews attended until 10 years after Pentecost

COMPARED TO:

The **Church at Antioch**: founded by dispersed Christians & Barnabus **AD 42** followed by Paul; Jews & Gentiles members

We want to move from Law to Grace; from Bondage to Freedom; from Legalism to Grace. FYI: See that Peter AND Paul did:

Read all of Acts chapter 15 about Church Council. Here is what Peter said in Jerusalem in the Council meeting: *“we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we [Jews] shall be saved in the same manner as they [Gentiles].”*

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 Paul wrote: *“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **But by the grace of God I am what I am,** and **His grace** toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but **the grace of God which was with me.**”*

Grace Will Move You...

- **FROM** Loser in the church **TO** a Leader in the church
- **FROM** Worthlessness **TO** Worthiness
- **FROM** Meaningless Illegitimacy **TO** Meaningful Identity
- **FROM** Laboring in Vain **TO** Victory in Labor

Read also Ephesians 2:8-10 AND Galatians 2:15-16 and be a part of the 8-week “Encounter with Grace” series at Church 212° (212° app has them all). As Peter wrote: “But you, friends, are well-warned. **Be on guard lest you lose your footing** and get swept off your feet by these lawless and loose-talking teachers. **Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.** Glory to the Master, now and forever! Yes [Amen]!” 2 Peter 3:17-18 MSG