

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church**  
**Sermon Series: Breaking Fake – August 14, 2022**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

### **DISCUSSION STARTER**

A well-known saying declares, "Actions speak louder than words." Have your group discuss what this phrase means and ask participants to share some examples of how they have observed the truth of this statement.

### **DIGGING DEEPER 1**

**Read Galatians 2:14.** Instead of holding to the gospel of grace, Cephas (a.k.a. Peter) fell into the trap of saying one thing and doing another. Earlier in Galatians 1, Paul made it clear that there are not two gospels, but only one. Peter was free in Christ to eat as though he were a Gentile, yet he wanted to have Gentiles conform to Jewish customs. Ask, "Why do people seem to make two sets of rules? One set of rules that applies to them, and another set that applies to everyone else. Why is this so dangerous when it comes to the gospel?" *See also Titus 1:16*

### **DIGGING DEEPER 2**

**Read Galatians 2:15-16.** When Peter went along with putting pressure on Titus to be circumcised, he was actually undermining the gospel. The good news is that Jesus died so that we could be made right with God through faith. If the Old Testament Law was sufficient to make us right with God, then Jesus would not have needed to come and die to save us. Paul says that through the works of the law, "no one is justified." Using a study Bible look up the word "justified" and discover its meaning and why it is so important for us to understand.

### **DIGGING DEEPER 3**

**Read Galatians 2:17-19.** Paul anticipates an argument from the Jews that since the law doesn't save us that perhaps it doesn't matter how we live our lives. Paul is clear that Christians are not made sinless when they are saved, but that they will still struggle with sin. Obedience to God, particularly the law, does not bring them salvation. Faith in Christ alone will make them right with God. Through our faith, God empowers us to live for God. Ask your group, "Based on what Paul says in these verses, what is the purpose of the law since it cannot save us? What does Paul mean by 'through the law I died to the law?'"

### **DOING THE WORD**

**Read Galatians 2:20-21.** Paul gives clarity to the gospel in this personal statement of faith and commitment to Christ. He is united to Jesus by faith and now he identifies more with the crucified Christ than any other aspect of his life. Paul's whole life is enveloped in living for Jesus. Ask your group, "Can you say with Paul that you have been 'crucified with Christ?' Are you primarily defined by your identity in Christ?" Encourage your group that to embrace Christ fully is to surrender your rights to living your own way and substituting that for living God's way. Ask, "What do we need to do to make our life in Christ the whole of our life and not just part of our life? What other competing loyalties need to be laid down so you can follow Jesus fully?"