

The Filtering Power of Grace – Galatians 2:11-21

Intro: Filters are Important! God's grace has the power to be a filter in our hearts and minds so that we are spiritually strong and healthy and protected from contaminants.

I. Our _____ – Galatians 2:11-14

A. Peter believed right, but _____ wrong – 2:11-13
- Cf. Acts 10:13-15, 19-20, 28-29, 34, 45

B. Peter allowed _____ to influence him – 2:12

C. Peter and others acted like _____ – 2:13

D. Peter was not guarding _____ – 2:14

Key Application: We all face struggles in our lives, in our balancing our beliefs and our behavior in real life. Take refuge in God's grace for all of life's struggles, and let it be the filter that you use for protection against bad decisions and for maintain good doctrine.

II. Our Doctrine – Galatians 2:15-18

Peter did not filter his questions and actions through Bible Doctrine.

A. The Doctrine of _____ – 2:15-16 (Romans 5:8)

B. The Doctrine of _____ – 2:16 (Titus 3:7)

C. The Doctrine of _____ – 2:16, 21 (2 Cor. 8:9).

D. The Doctrine of _____ – 2:19-21

1. New Position – Dead to Law.

2. New Priority – Live to God

3. New Power – Christ Lives in Me!

Conclusion: Filters are so important!

Availing yourself of God's grace means protection from contaminating your thinking, your living, your faith. It also means protection from regretful decisions and having the ability to display God's grace for others to see.

Small Group Questions

1. List off as many types of filters that you can think of. Why are filters important?
2. When was a time (recently or in the past) that you used the “filter” of God’s grace and/or the Scriptures in your life? Why was it important? What was the outcome?
3. Read Galatians 2:14. Explain how Peter was not being “straightforward about the truth of the gospel” in his decision to not eat with the Gentiles when Jewish leaders came to Antioch.
4. What are ways in which Christians (or where or when) might struggle to balance belief and behavior in today’s world?
5. Read Galatians 2:16-17. Paul uses the word “justification” four times. Explain in simple words what this term means. What is the basis of justification? How is a person justified?
6. How is the doctrine of grace seen in these verses: Romans 5:8; Titus 3:7; 1 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 2:8-9?
7. Read Galatians 2:19-21. How is grace at work in the life of a believer through Christ that enables him to live to God?
8. How is God challenging you to think differently?
9. What is a key lesson from this study to apply to your life?