

Introduction

Gal. 2:11-16

VIDEO

1. "The" Quote

(1) Never show weakness, never be vulnerable. They may say they want it... but they really don't.

1. That's exactly what's happening in this video.

2. Let me tell you how I got there ...

2. Domesticated vs Free Range

(1) When people first become Christians, they're wild, free range

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

the time let me tell you about
before "certain men"

I. Christianity Has a Honey moon (v.11-12b)

1. Before "certain men" (v.12a)

(1) When I first became a Christian, it was awesome.

1. Domesticated Christians ^{within the church} are initially encouraged by wilder Christians and their passion.
2. I think it reminds them of how they are supposed to feel & maybe even once felt
3. Everything about Christianity was exciting to me, especially the church.
4. Ask me to do ministry
5. Eventually the honeymoon ends. Like having a puppy.
6. He smokes cigars, drinks whiskey, rides a Harley
What do we do w/ him?

PIC 1

early youth ministry

We need to get our arms around him

(2) So soon, I began to feel a lot like Tarzan...

1. Struggling to adapt to my new, domesticated environment

2. Guess who's coming to dinner (v 12b)

(1) In the beginning, my ministry was wild (teaching, etc.). A reflection of my own primitive Christianity

1. Some of the kinds of students we started to attract made a lot of church people very uncomfortable.

2. We think the point of the gospel is to make bad people good... safe.

3. They are a threat to our own justification.

(2) Domesticate the Preacher

1. But we grew so fast. Didn't have time to domesticate them all

2. So let's domesticate the preacher

3. Pastor started meeting w/ me @ Derry's

4. Simultaneously Elders were teaching me the Bible

3. This began the tension

PIC 2

Steven

II. Religion Has an Agenda (12c-13)

1. Churches like parties (→ 12c)

(1) This began a long history of domesticating the Gospel in my life

1. Cigars were urged
2. Alcohol was sinful
3. Harley's were reckless

(2) Instead, I just learned to hide these things from church people

1. Which puts me right back where I was before Jesus.

(3) This is what I mean by "domesticating" the gospel

to change (a wild animal or plant) over time to make it more suited to life with or use by humans

1. Gospel used to make safe
Safe = in control
In control = behavior

(4) Churches domesticate the Gospel through party affiliation

1. What party are you with?

2. No More Power (v13)

- (1) Now I am growing frustrated w/ my faith.
1. I don't see change
 2. Over-emphasis on "be good" is causing all kinds of problems, personal & ministry
 3. Input = Output
 4. Binary = everything that is safe is not sin.

1 Corinthians 10:23 - "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

5. Not being truthful, while expecting it from others.

- (1) Message is clear: we'd rather feel safe than deal w/ sin
- (2) In my first church, this tension was overt (Tyler vs. meetings)
- (3) In my second church, same message, but more subtle
 1. Project an image of being a place for real Christianity

3. Creating domesticated disciples like Peter (v. 13)

(1) In my second church, I'm still not healthy, my leaders aren't healthy, my family isn't healthy.

PG 3
& 4
2nd
Ministry

(2) What I'm beginning to believe about the Gospel, is getting healthy.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Chart 1

1. Still saving? Will save? Well, what is the gospel?

(Architect)

(solution)

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

(problem)

(result)

Chart 2

(3) We drift back to these ideas:

Domesticated Gospel

1. There are bigger problems than death
2. There are better solutions than Jesus
3. There are better architects than God
4. Better results than spiritual vitality

III. The Gospel Has a Response (v14)

1. Throw out the rulebook and get on the dance floor (v14)

(1) Paul is acknowledging here that Peter is "out of step" w/ the Gospel.

1. Being "out of step" is about domesticating the Gospel
2. Trying to make it utilitarian so it will be useful to your life

Isaiah 55:2-3 - Why do you...labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live...
(vs lean)

3. So what is being "in-step"
(soul fully alive)

Galatians 5:1-6 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

4. Moving from output orientation of Christianity to input orientation (tend to the soul)

(2) It takes two to tango

1. Behavior matters because it tells you your music is wrong you're settling for lean food

3. What Paul is saying is...

1. Jesus didn't come to make bad people good... He came to make bound people free

(1) Not free to be good people... but free to be free people

Galatians 5:1a - For freedom Christ has set us free...

(2) Which is what changes our behavior

1. So when I sin, I don't try to be good, I try to get back in step w/ what is true about me... I'm free

2. How do I do that?
(v15-16)

3. Let the Gospel save you again... present tense.

(3) I arrived at my 3rd church in Santa Cruz disorientated by what I now know, but learned the hard way.

1. Where I would hear those words... but this time... I'm starting not to listen anymore.

Conclusion

1. Maybe you should stop listening, as well

(1) Maybe you're like me, like Paul ~~this~~ morning ...

Romans 7:15 - For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

(2) Some days you feel like you haven't changed at all

(3) No power in the Gospel

Romans 7:24-25; 17 - Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin...So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

(4) What Paul here is saying is the old nature, the old person is in one way - dead! And in another sense, in the middle of dying.

2. Don't Domesticate the Gospel

(1) If you wonder why so many of you are experiencing a passionless, powerless, weak gospel

(2) One that looks & feels like a lot like your life before Jesus, it's because you've domesticated the Gospel

- (3) You think, Jesus came to make bad men, good. Rather than bound men, free.
- (4) You've traded freedom for sin management.
- (5) Good behavior is the best result you can imagine, rather than truly living.
- (6) That's NOT taking sin lightly!
- (7) Instead, it's taking Jesus seriously....

Ephesians 4:22-24 - ...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

- (8) Let the Gospel save you again this morning. The first time from sin's penalty ... this time from sin's power.
- (9) And then let it save you again tomorrow ... future time.

