

LIFE VERSE

Community Group Discussion Guide

July 28, 2013

Week 4 – The Gospel Identity

Galatians 2:20

Read Galatians 2:11-21 (with a particular emphasis on vs. 17-21) together as a group; then answer the following questions.

Introduction

If asked, many Christians would say that there's a verse or set of verses which more than any other have had a significant impact on their lives. It may have been a verse that opened their eyes to the truth of God's grace or gave them wisdom to make the right choice at a defining point in their lives.

In this week's sermon, Brad speaks from the final five verses of Galatians Chapter Two about the gospel identity, about what a Christian really is. A Christian is not a 'religious legalist' nor a 'licentious sinner;' a Christian has an altogether unique (and life-changing) identity.

Questions for Study

1. What does it mean to "be a Christian"? Discuss some of the popular views or things that people might say. (This is a hard question to answer!)
2. What do verses 17 & 21 say about the nature of what it means to be a Christian?
3. Why is being "justified in Christ" so foundational to being a Christian?
4. Brad said that the unique Christian identity we find in this passage is that we are "simul justus et peccator" (the latin phrase coined by Martin Luther)... we are "simultaneously righteous and sinful." Why is this such a unique identity?
5. What did Brad say were some of the implications of this identity? (Do you remember the metaphor that Paul gives in verse 14 about "not acting in line with the truth of the gospel"? What are the two errors we typically fall off into?)
6. Have each person in the group (if they're comfortable) share which error they most often "fall off" into.... more licentious living or more legalistic living.
7. If the solution, then, is to get in line with the truth of the gospel, what specifically *is* the gospel? Study verse 20 for a bit. How is this verse a wonderful summary of the gospel? What are the implications of this verse for your life? How can you apply it?