

Gospel Theology - Mini Course

Gospel is a Paradigm

The gospel is the central paradigm that must be applied to all of life and must be the backdrop of who we are and what we do as believers. Not convinced yet?

Galatians 2:11-21

Let me tell you about the most epic face-off between two great leaders and apostles, Peter and Paul. Let me set the scene. They're in Antioch, one of the greatest churches that was started. It started off with a Jewish base, then Gentiles started coming to Christ and they all start hanging out, eating together, having a great time together as one body. Paul and Barnabas were sent from this church. It was an incredible church sending people out on missionary journeys.

Then you have these Judaizers show up and they start causing all sorts of issues. They start imposing Jewish laws on the Gentile believers. As time goes on, the Jewish Christians stop hanging out with the Gentile Christians. Even Barnabas got messed up with all this thinking. And Peter, gosh, even Peter, the apostle, the leader stops hanging out with the Gentile Christians, but then you have Paul who comes back to Antioch and goes head to head with Peter, rebuking him, condemning him for what's happening.

Why? What was Peter's sin?

Was he being a hypocrite?

Definitely

Was he being a people pleaser?

Of course he was

Was he being a legalist?

YES!

Was he being a racist towards the gentiles?

Well, yes, he was, wasn't he

What he being a cultural elitist?

Absolutely

Did Paul go after these sins? No, not exactly, he could have, but he didn't. He went after the root issue.

What was the main thing Paul went after?

He rebuked the fact that Peter stopped keeping in step with the Gospel. He stopped walking in line with the truth of the gospel.

The Gospel has lines of implications for everything; at home, at work, in our relationships, in our parenting, our marriage. Our job is to apply the gospel to every situation we find ourselves in. It is then the renewing work of the gospel builds you up.

Peter had separated his conduct of behaviour from the gospel. Peter believed the gospel, he preached the truth of the gospel, but his behaviour demonstrated something apart from the gospel.

The gospel is a paradigm and has to be the backdrop of who we are and what we do as believers. It is a paradigm to be applied to all of life, for the whole of Christian life.

Tim Keller quote "whole of Christian Life"

Peter's conduct, had Paul not intervened, could have produced horrible outcomes. Division among believers, works towards salvation, loss of sight of God's amazing grace. As Keller said it, all our problems come from a failure to apply the gospel. The gospel is to be applied to all areas of our life.

Let's think about this for ourselves and our own contexts.

What areas have we wrongly lost sight of the gospel?

What areas of your life have you not applied the gospel to?

It's never too late