Resisting Hypocrisy February 25, 2018

*Galatians 2:1-14 Series: How God Sets People Free*

*Accountability to me is unnatural. My tendency is to only let you know enough about me to give you a good impression. I am a recovering hypocrite. – Steve Green*

Intro: The bumper sticker doesn’t always tell the whole story.

1. God’s Word guards us against hypocrisy.
2. People who don’t understand grace will try to pressure you.

v. 4 *false brothers secretly brought in*

v. 4 *who slipped in to spy out our freedom*

1 Peter 2:16 *Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.*

v. 4 *so that they might bring us into slavery*

Romans 10:3 *For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

1. Conviction regarding God’s Word protects us.

v. 5 *we did not yield in submission even for a moment*

v. 5 *so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved*

1. Conviction regarding God’s character protects us.

v. 6 *what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality*

* Have you ever experienced the pressure of “false brothers?”
* Why would people want to rob someone else’s freedom?
* What is the freedom we have in Christ Jesus? What is it not?
* How do you develop biblical convictions?

1. Fellowship guards us against hypocrisy.
2. We need to open our lives to people who understand grace.

v. 1 I *went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas*

v. 3 *But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.*

1. We need to open our lives to people’s affirmation.

v. 7 *they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel*

v. 9 *when [they] perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me*

v. 10 *Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.*

Proverbs 27:17 *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

1. We need to open our lives to people’s correction.

v. 11 *when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned*

Luke 12:2 *Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.*

Proverbs 27:6 *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

* What can other Christians do in our lives that the Bible alone often can’t? i.e. Why do we need fellowship?
* What impact do you think the apostles’ “right hand of fellowship” would have had on Paul?
* How can we communicate to others that we’re open to correction?

1. Courage guards us against hypocrisy.
2. Fear tempts us to live out other people’s beliefs not our own.

v. 12 *before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles*

v. 12 *he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party*

Acts 11:2–3 *So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”*

1. We need courage to step away from the crowd.

v. 13 *And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*

1. We need courage to walk in step with God’s truth.

v. 14 *their conduct was not in step with the truth*

v. 14 *If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?*

Titus 1:16 *They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.*

Psalm 27:1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

* What do you think made the pressure of the “circumcision party” so powerful?
* When have you experienced negative Christian peer pressure?
* When does accountability become control?
* What are some of the ways that Christians can live out of step with the truth of the gospel?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Galatians 2:15-21.

Notes