**Galatians Chapter 2**

Chapter 2:1-5

* Much of the letter to the Galatians will center around the question of circumcision for Gentile followers of Christ. Paul spent the first chapter of this letter establishing his apostleship for the churches to show them that he has authority from God to be sharing the gospel. Here, he continues that work.
* He speaks about going to Jerusalem to speak with the apostles there, and then speaks a little dis-jointedly about Titus and whether or not he was circumcised as a Gentile follower of Christ.
* As Paul is describing his visit with the apostles in Jerusalem, he shares that he “laid before them” the gospel he had been teaching. He is making it clear that he learned the same gospel they know from Jesus and that unity in the church was very important to him - it is important that they are all preaching the same gospel so the church can be one family.
* Where do we see issues of unity or disunity in our churches today?

Chapter 2:6-10

* Paul is careful in how he speaks about the Jerusalem apostles, because he has worked so hard to establish his identity as one with authority in the church at the same level as theirs, but in this section he completes his story of his time in Jerusalem with them.
* He shares that they were each called to different people, but with the same gospel message, and that this was all from God. They also had unity in the work of the church to “remember the poor.” As we look at Paul’s letters we’ll often see mention of a collection taken up for the church in Jerusalem which was much poorer than the gentile churches he was preaching to.
* Where have you seen God calling and equipping different people for different aspects of work in the church? How do you see those working together?

Chapter 2:11-14

* Paul relates a specific story of having to deal with this issue of separation between Jews and Gentiles, possibly because the other side of the story had already been told to the people in Galatia and he needed to set the record straight.
* Table fellowship, eating together was so important in that culture for naming connection. If we eat together, we’re like family. If you are someone I won’t associate with, I absolutely won’t eat at the same table as you. Table fellowship is also the precursor to our own practice of communion - sharing a meal of Christ together.
* Paul wants to make it clear that Peter, one of the pillars of the church, had no problem sharing a table with uncircumcised Gentiles, until some who were fervently against that arrived. If Peter agrees with Paul on this question, then it is certain that this is how the church will function - with some following Jewish law and some not.
* Do you ever struggle with how you choose to act in front of certain people? Do you, like Paul, sometimes find it hard to be fully accepting of outsiders in front of those who don’t agree with you about accepting them?

Chapter 2:15-21

* Paul continues with a theological discussion of the heart of the disagreement he’s dealing with. For him this isn’t just a matter up for debate as a point of interest, but the very heart of who the church is in light of the gospel.
* Paul makes the point to the end of the chapter, that the Church’s identity is entirely in Christ. There is not one way to be or one identifying marker that will make one a member of God’s people other than Jesus, the Messiah.
* When Paul speaks of being “made righteous” in many ways, he is speaking of being brought into the one family of faith in God and Jesus, the Messiah. That is the most important identity of people of faith, and the one which brings us all together regardless of practices of any sort.
* How does your identity in Christ change your life? How do you connect with other Christians, even when you don’t agree with them on certain practices or other matters of life?