

SAVING FAITH: GALATIANS

Week Four:
Galatians 2:11-14

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1. Every Christian Will Fail

Now, let's set up the situation. Look at verse 12 with me:

¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Explain the situation. Clean/unclean.

We are not finished products

- We have been justified, we are being sanctified.
- Peter trusted, failed, trusted, failed.

Non-Christians:

- You'll see us fail. We aren't trying to win you to us. We are trying to win you to Jesus, and if by seeing us fail and renew one another in grace you are won to Christ, then we joy even in what God can do with our failures.
- We trust the NT because it's honest and transparent.

Christians:

- Who are struggling with sin, take heart. You're in good company.
 - Samson, David, and many other excellent people, full of the Holy Spirit, fell into great sins (Judges 16; 2 Samuel 11:1–15).

- Job and Jeremiah cursed the day of their birth (Job 3:1–12; Jeremiah 20:14).
- Elijah and Jonah were weary of their life and desired death (1 Kings 19:4; Jonah 4:8).
- No one has ever fallen so badly that he cannot rise again.

- Who are feeling victorious over sin, be sober-minded.
 - Never forget Gideon.
 - ²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.¹ Gideon 8:27
 - No Christian is so surefooted in their walk that they cannot stumble.
 - The broken hearted prostitute is closer to God than the prideful religious person.
 - If Peter fell, I can fall too!
 - We should always be saddened when a Christian fails, but never surprised.

Is Lake Wylie Baptist Church a safe place for people to fail? Or, will we shoot our wounded?

Will we give people the truth?
Will we give them forgiveness?
Will we give them time and patience?

Will our church be known as a harbor; a refuge?

This is what the world needs!

2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Jdg 8:27).

beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.

2. We Call One Another to Examine and Apply the Gospel to Our Lives

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Peter falls

Other Jews fall

Barnabas falls.

Dominoes Illustration

¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Paul doesn't say, "You're breaking the racism rule. Stop it!"

He says, "Peter you're not walking in line with the gospel."

Gospel implications. Gospel isn't just the thing that saves us.

Gospel isn't just the ABC's of Christianity. It's the A-Z of Christianity. Gospel isn't just the diving board into the pool. It's the pool.

It also shoots out lines into every area of our life:

Marriage, work, parenting, how to be a neighbor, how to be a

church member.

Paul is saying, "Peter, you've trusted the gospel for your salvation. But you're not applying it to your relationship to these Gentiles."

You need to learn to preach the gospel to yourself. You need a constant inner dialogue with the gospel.

We aren't just calling one another to obedience, but to the gospel.

Time of Response:

1. Sing- The singing itself is a response.
2. Pray- you can always come and kneel as a physical sign of your commitment to God. Let's be a church where, when we see someone come and kneel, you come and kneel with them.
3. I'll be here to the side each week for prayer.