

Galatians 1:10 – 2:14

Introduction

I. Surrendered to Grace

A. “To give up”

2 Corinthians 5: 14: For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

“To give over”

2 Corinthians 5:15: And he died for all that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised

II. Let’s look at the life of a man who was totally surrendered to grace, to ask ourselves, “What would my life look like if I were more surrendered to God’s grace?”

III. Paul’s purpose in these verses is to:

- A. Show that his authority is independent of the leaders in Jerusalem
- B. Show that his message is totally consistent with the leaders in Jerusalem

IV. Let’s look at his story through the lens of grace

- A. Grace interrupts and redirects our lives
- B. Grace changes our view of people
- C. Grace gives us conviction and courage through adversity
- D. Grace leads us to a life of gracious generosity

The Passage

I. Galatians 1:11-24

A. Paul develops three “alibis” to show his authority is independent

- 1. After receiving his call he did not go to Jerusalem but went instead to Arabia and then Damascus (3 years total)
- 2. After 3 years he went to Jerusalem but only for 2 weeks and only to get acquainted with Peter and James
- 3. He then went up north to Syria and Cilicia and didn’t return to Jerusalem for 14 years

B. Let’s look at this through the eyes of grace

1. Paul’s encounter with grace

- a. Paul’s life before grace (v. 13-14)
- b. Paul’s description of his encounter with grace (v. 15)
see also Acts 26:12-18
see also 1 Timothy 1:15-16

2. **Grace interrupts and redirects our lives**

- a. His life was totally interrupted. After encountering Christ, he went into the desert probably for a long time of reflection and re-thinking (v. 17)
- b. His life was totally redirected (v. 23)

II. Galatians 2:1-10

- A. Paul develops his argument that his gospel is consistent with the leaders in Jerusalem
 - 1. The Jerusalem leaders did not require Titus to be circumcised (v. 3)
 - 2. They added nothing to Paul's message (v. 6)
 - 3. They gave him and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (v. 9)

B. Let's look at this through the eyes of grace

- 1. **Grace changes our view of people**

See 2 Cor 5:16

God's grace totally equals the playing field so that we don't value people more according to their status, reputation, talent, etc

- 2. Notice how Paul doesn't view the apostles as any more important than anyone else (v. 2, 6, 9)

III. Galatians 2:11-14

- 1. **Grace gives us conviction and courage through adversity**

- a. Peter gives in to the Jewish pressure to distance himself from the Gentiles and everyone follows him except Paul.

- b. Paul knows that the gospel of grace is at stake and is not intimidated by Peter so he confronts him publicly.

IV. Galatians 2:9-10

- 1. **Grace leads to a life of gracious generosity**

- a. Peter, James, and John ask that as Paul travels throughout the Mediterranean, that he would remember the poverty stricken church in Jerusalem (see also Acts 11:27-30)

- b. So throughout Paul's journeys he spends a huge amount of time and energy gathering a collection (a relief effort) from the Gentile churches, and towards the end of his life he gathers this collection and is able to present it to the poor churches in Jerusalem

See 2 Corinthians 8-9, 1 Corinthians 16:1, Romans 15:25-28

See especially 2 Corinthians 8:9

Conclusion

- I. What would my life look like if I were more surrendered to God's grace?
- II. How has grace interrupted and redirected our lives?
- III. How has grace changed our view of people?
- IV. How has grace given us conviction and courage through adversity?
- V. How has grace lead us to a life of gracious generosity?

Discussion Questions

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?
2. How did Sunday's sermon add to or fill out your knowledge and appreciation of Paul and his life as an apostle? What did you learn about him that was previously unknown to you?
3. Share with each other your answers to this question: How would my life be different if I were more surrendered to God's grace? What is one key area/issue in your life you would most like to see change in along these lines?
4. In light of Paul's conviction and courage to confront Peter even in the face of pressure and opposition (Gal 2:11-14), what is one area or situation in your life that requires a similar conviction/courage?
5. Describe a time when God's grace clearly interrupted and redirected your life.