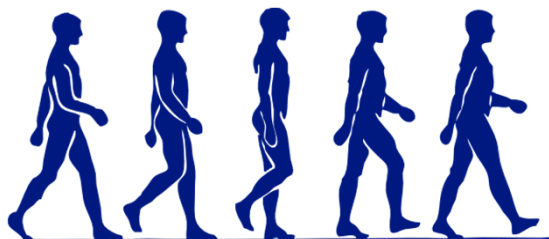




WALKING RIGHT

GALATIANS 2:11-21



Galatians so far

- Chapter 1:1-10 The importance of the gospel
- Chapter 1:11-2:10 Paul's passion for the gospel

GUESS THE THEME ?

- So what is “the gospel” ?
 - Chapter 2:11-21
- But first a story...



Peter gets it wrong (Galatians 2:11-13)

- Peter visits Antioch
 - Happy to mix & eat with non-Jewish believers
 - Based on his previous revelation & experience (Acts 10)
- Some disagree
 - They say Christians need to keep Jewish law
- Peter stops eating with non-Jews
 - *“because he was afraid of them”*
- Other believers follow Peter’s example
 - Even Barnabus
- Paul intervenes



Some details

- Verse 11 Peter was *“clearly in the wrong”* = *“stood condemned”*
 - Legal term = proved guilty by own actions



- Verse 13 Peter & the others were being *“hypocrites”*
 - Theatrical term = playing a role, pretending



Why does this matter? (Galatians 2:14)

- They were “*not acting in line with the truth of the gospel*”
- Not “*walking right*”, going off course
 - Not about **belief**, but about **behaviour**
- Need to line up with “*truth of the gospel*”
 - What is it?



The truth of the gospel (Galatians 2:15-18)

- Another legal term: “*justification*”
 - Freely acquitted, treated as innocent, nothing to pay
- The gospel:
 - We’re all guilty, in the dock, rightly condemned
 - We deserve the penalty
 - Jesus has paid the price so we can go free
 - We can be “justified” through faith in Jesus
- Two gospel facts:
 - Our **central need**: to be **justified** before God
 - Our **central act**: to have **faith in Jesus**
- **The truth of the gospel = *justification by faith***



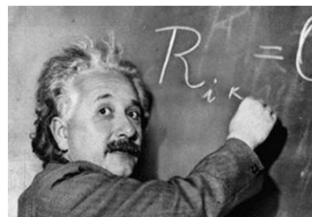
Peter's problem

- His actions implied another way to be justified
 - By observing the Jewish law
- Paul says “**No!**” (verses 15-16)
 - In *theory*: “We both know...”
 - In *practice*: “We too have put our faith in Jesus Christ...”



Not just theory (Galatians 2:19-21)

- *Behaviour* as well as *belief*
- When a person is justified by faith, something dies and something comes to life
- What does “*justified by faith*” look like?
 - “... *Christ lives in me* ...”
 - “... *the life I now live in the body* ...”
- Practical implications



Questions for today [This means us!]

Are we clear about “the truth of the gospel”?

Are we walking right?

Does fear of others lead us astray?

Are we acting or authentic?

Are we justified by faith?

