

Life Change from the Heart
“Step 7: Part 2—Grace Based Discipleship”
Galatians 2:11-16
For the Week of December 4, 2016
New City Church of LA

GROW & SERVE GROUP GUIDE AND HOMEWORK

Open in Prayer

Worship

Share something that the Holy Spirit has taught you this week.

Sermon Reflection

“Life Change from the Heart” is a sermon series on how God changes us from the heart through the gospel. How does it work? After we surrender our life to God, we start the process of cleaning the inside of the cup, our heart. We go through an extensive process of self-examination to find self-indulgence in our heart, confession of what we find, and repentance. Then, step 7 says we “humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings.” How does God remove our shortcomings? It is through grace. But, does that mean we do nothing? No! We are called to take up the cross and follow Jesus. We are called to a discipleship. But, there are wrong ways to do discipleship and the right way to do discipleship. The wrong way is to do discipleship based on fear and pride. This kind of behavioral compliance, while seeming good on the surface, is superficial and ultimately does not work to change us at our core. The right way to change is to change out of experience of God’s grace.

Now, what kind of discipleship is God leading us into? He is calling us to a kind of discipleship that only graced-soaked people can live. He is calling us to move from a life based on the law to a life based on grace in every way. Jesus’ teaching, life, and death on the cross centered on the movement from living by the law to living by grace. And so, God is now calling us to live by the ethics of grace.

Any questions or comments about the sermon?

Bible Study

Read Galatians 2:11-16.

1. Why did Peter withdraw from eating with Gentile Christians?
2. Paul didn’t confront Peter for violating a rule, but for not acting in line with the truth of the gospel. What is the difference between confronting over rule-breaking and confronting over not acting in line with the gospel of grace?

3. Kevin argued that behavioral modification (based on just following the rules) is generally based on fear and pride. Do you agree? What is the problem with this kind of behavior modification that does not change the heart?

 4. Apostle John said (John 1:17): "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." What does it mean to be changed by grace and truth that came through Jesus instead of the law which came through Moses?

 5. Bonhoeffer in his classic, *The Cost of Discipleship*, makes a distinction between "cheap" grace and "costly" grace. According to Bonhoeffer, "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ." Cheap grace, Bonhoeffer says, is to hear the gospel preached as follows: "Of course you have sinned, but now everything is forgiven, so you can stay as you are and enjoy the consolations of forgiveness." The main defect of such a proclamation is that it contains no demand for discipleship. In contrast to cheap grace, "costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"
- Do you have a tendency to rest in cheap grace without discipleship? What can you do to make sure you are engaging in discipleship the right way?
6. Give some examples from teachings of Jesus that teach us to go from living a life based on the ethics of the law (justice and fairness) to a life based on the ethics of grace (giving better than we deserve). (E.g., Matthew 5:38-48; Matthew 20:1-16; Luke 6:36, etc.)

 7. How can we live out this ethics of grace in our lives?

Share how you are doing this week with one another

Pray for one another, the church, and our neighborhood