**“It’s not complicated”**

Going deeper in Galatians 2:11-16

**INTRODUCTION -** In the first chapter of Galatians, the Apostle Paul sent his greetings to the church and expressed his grief over the fact that there were people there who were teaching a false gospel. They were basically teaching that Jesus alone was not enough. Those same teachers were being critical of Paul and questioning his credentials. The Apostle gives answer to the critics by proclaiming that he had received the message of justification by grace through faith directly from Jesus. He had the highest of credentials!

In chapter 2, Paul continues to address the serious issue of those who were complicating the truth of the gospel message.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**11**When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12**For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. **13**The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.**14**When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?**15**“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles **16**know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith inChrist and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What disagreement did Paul have with Peter?

2. How might the church be different today if Paul had ignored the situation?

3. In what areas of your life have you tended to makes things complicated?

4. In what areas have you been increasingly walking in line with the gospel?

5. How would you explain “justification by faith” to someone who has never been to church before?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

*\**Give thanks to God for his amazing gift of grace!

\*Ask for the Spirit to be at work in your heart, helping you to seek the approval of God rather than the approval of other people.

\*Ask the Lord to help you to demonstrate the truth of the gospel through your words and actions.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

In the coming days, may you resist the urge to make life complicated, and may you remember, with deep gratitude, the grace God has lovingly showered down upon you so that you will, through the love of Christ, offer grace to others.