

Week Two: *Hollow Actions*
Galatians 2:11-16

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Read Galatians 2:1-10. Are you more of a leader or a follower? (Both are needed in life, and one is not more important than the other.)
2. What are the two things you are never supposed to discuss in polite conversation? Do you agree? Why do you think that is an often-followed “unwritten rule?”
3. Do you feel qualified to discuss matters of faith among friends? Among strangers? Why or why not?
4. Is every point of doctrine equally important? For example? If you know something said is wrong, are you inclined to correct the person or let it go? What factors do you consider in your decision?
5. Read Titus 3:9-11. Why is this advice important?
6. Compare the previous verse to 1 Peter 3:15. Are they contradictory? Why or why not?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for a more gentle and gracious spirit. Pray for the spirit of Christ to dwell in you richly.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Are tolerance and compromise the same thing? Explain.
9. Read Galatians 2:11-15. What was the relationship between Peter and Paul? (See verse 8.) Who had been an apostle longer? Do you think people were inclined to put more trust in Peter since he had been at the Lord’s side and Paul had not? What’s today’s equivalent to that disparity?
10. What did Peter do that so offended Paul?
11. A Judaizer was someone who taught that you had to become a practicing Jew first (honoring all the traditions) before you could accept the Jewish Messiah and become a Christian. Why is that a bad thing?
12. Are there Christians today who, like the Judaizers, expect new Christians to accept and honor all their customs and traditions before they can become mature Christians? Can you think of an example? Read Matthew 15:8-9.

13. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to always know and honor the difference between personal preference and God's truth.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. Look again at Galatians 2:12. What reason did Paul give for the behavior of Peter?

15. Do Christians today still struggle with peer pressure when it comes to maintaining their faith in public? Who do you think struggles the most? Teenagers, Business-people, Relatives?

16. What was the effect of Peter's compromise on the others who respected him, even Barnabas?

17. Did Paul violate the expectation of Jesus to talk to his brother (Peter) in private before confronting him in public? Why or why not?

18. In his admonition of Peter, what did Paul emphasize in Galatians 15-16?

19. Why is this so hard for people to keep straight – both Christians and non-Christians tend to describe faithful people by works and not by belief?

20. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to be willing and able to keep the faith about faith and not behavior in your discussion and example of life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

21. Read Mark 9:38-41. Put Jesus' instructions into your own words.

22. Truth matters. We never want to compromise any part of God's truth. But, you may sometimes hear your pastor(s) say, "Eat the fish, spit out the bones." What does that mean?

23. Can you name any prominent Christian ministries in your area, or in the nation, that are winning countless souls for Christ, but may be in error on some basic Christian teachings? What should our attitude be towards those ministries and towards people who attend those churches?

24. How do you decide when to correct error and when to tolerate aberration?

25. If you feel secure enough to admit it, what's your weak spot? Cursing? Envy? Materialism? Sexual Temptation? Others? How do you feel in your spirit when you realize your life is contrary to your faith?
26. What's the best way to handle hypocrisy in your life? What works for you?
27. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Read Matthew 7:3-5 and let that serve as the basis for your prayer.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

28. Read Galatians 2:17-21. Do you agree with the phrase, "Fake it till you make it"? If Christians aren't perfect, should they do their best to appear better than they really are? What do you think?
29. The word hypocrisy comes from two Latin words that mean – "play-acting." It is one of the biggest reasons nonbelievers have for not joining the faith. Is it a fair criticism? Does it justify disbelief?
30. It has been said, "If you stopped going to church because someone there hurt you, your faith was misplaced." Do you agree? What should a Christian do or say when they hear that criticism?
31. How important is it for Christians to admit, rather than explain and/or justify, their false steps, especially towards those outside the faith?
32. Read Jesus' words in Matthew 5:23-24. What do they mean? Why is that important?
33. Define integrity. How is it different from perfection? Why is integrity in the heart of Christians important for the Christians themselves?
34. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray that your walk would always match your talk, and when it doesn't, to be vulnerable and willing to admit it.