DIGGING DEEPER

ENGAGING WITH THE SERMON

CULTURE CHECK PART 3: THE WAR (POINTS 1&2)
AUGUST 9, 2020 | GALATIANS 2:11-15

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WHAT IS DIGGING DEEPER?

Two of the main pillars of Gracelife Church is gathering and growing in which we encourage each of our attenders to be a part of a community that gathers together with the intention of growing in Christ. However, we understand that gathering in community is a little complicated right now. Thankfully, during the summer our community groups take a break so that makes things a little less complicated. We wanted to continue to provide a way for you to dig deeper into the message whether individually, in your d-groups, or sitting around the table with your family so feel free to use these questions as a guide for discussion for whatever kind of gathering you feel comfortable with or as a tool for personal reflection.

INTRO: CULTURAL THREAT

Have you ever had any real life experiences with an invasive species; maybe in your garden?

Did you know that most of the time we are so accustomed to the species that we just assume that it is indigenous? (love bugs are and iguanas are two of Florida's invasive species, surprised?)

Not only is Tommy, Sarah and all travelers getting accosted at the airport to protect from invasive species but once the species is established there are also programs to reduce the population of the species (google “The Lionfish Challenge”) in order to restore the ecosystem that has been disrupted.

Protecting and Preserving the Gospel doctrine and culture is a “war” against anything that doesn’t belong (goes against the Gospel doctrine) or harms the environment (opposite of our unspoken rules or Gospel culture).

Would you say that calling it a “war” is over exaggerating? Why or why not? Do you think your church history has had any influence over your answer?

03

TOMMY CLAYTON

"When you introduce something other than the Gospel into a community of Christians who have been transformed by that message it will devour that community, it will devour that culture, it will tear it to pieces; very quickly, very easily, and very strategically"

HOW QUICKLY, EASILY, & STRATEGICALLY ATTACKS COME

Just as we sometimes don't recognize the problem of invasive species, the churches around Galatia didn't recognize that they were under attack - Paul had to sound the alarm, urgently. (Galatians 1:6, 3:2-3, 4:11, 5:7,9,15)

How do you think the members of these churches reacted to the reading of this letter? Have you ever had someone speak a harsh truth to you about something that was going on in your life? How did you respond?

Read the quote above:

How have you seen this play out in your own life or church history?

Scenario: If you were in the Galatian community and recognized the warning signs and began to see the shift occurring, what would you have done? How would you have protected yourself from falling victim to this attack personally? How could you have helped the community?

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HOW UGLY, TOXIC, AND UNWELCOMING CULTURE BECOMES

If we aren't fighting to protect and preserve Gospel Doctrine and Culture, then the community becomes confused causing doubt in salvation and dependence on "good" works - we see this in Paul's example Peter's hypocrisy.

New believers look to us just as the church looked to Peter - what discrepancies would they see in your life?

Cultures that are toxic are focused on loving God but forget about loving neighbors; they fear man and desire to please him - Just like Peter. Hypocrisy devours Gospel culture.

How do you handle confrontation? Would you be able to to confront someone as Paul did? What holds you back from protecting the culture in this way? If you have done this already: How did you do it? How did it go?Would you do it differently now? Why?

But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, 'If you though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Galatians 2:14

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HOW UNIQUELY, COURAGEOUSLY, & ENDLESSLY WE MUST FIGHT THIS

Paul uses Gospel Doctrine to correct Gospel Culture. Paul is going to ensure that the Galatians learn their lesson so that they never let any "invasive species" in again.

TO BE CONTINUED...

This week consider:

"Justification by faith alone is the truth of the gospel. It is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine, wherein the knowledge of all godliness consists. Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into our heads continually."
Martin Luther

"God wants us to learn our lesson and not allow anything: false teaching, hypocrisy, legalism, nothing to damage this (Gospel) culture."
Tommy Clayton