



## “What the Bible REALLY Says about Christians”

Galatians 2:11-21

### BACKGROUND

Did you know that one of the main things keeping non-Christians away from Jesus today is... Christians?

A 2007 study by The Barna Group suggests that a “new Christianity” is being formulated, particularly by the younger unchurched.

According to the study, the “battered image” of Christianity is partly due to “unchristian” behavior by church people [and] bad personal experiences with churches.”<sup>1</sup>

In today’s sermon you’ll discover that Christians have always had a problem keeping in line with the gospel.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/13-culture/89-barna-finds-four-mega-themes-in-recent-research>



## KNOWING GOD

a) Read **Galatians 2:11-14**. Why did Paul confront Peter (called Cephas in some versions)? Do you feel Paul's strong words and actions toward Peter were justified? Why or why not?

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b) What collateral damage did Peter's hypocrisy cause?

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c) Read **Galatians 2:15-21**. Explain what Paul means by the first words of verse 19 – "For through the law I died to the law." Does this mean the law (i.e., the Ten Commandments) is irrelevant to Christians today?

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## GROWING TOGETHER

a) How do you see hypocrisy among Christians today? How does it harm our witness?

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b) In what ways do you sometimes act like Peter? That is, how does fear or an inappropriate desire to please people at the expense of others operate in your life?

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## SERVING OTHERS

a) If we're not careful, we at UPC could easily slip out of line with the gospel and become a legalistic, judgmental church. In what ways can you personally take responsibility to see that that doesn't happen?

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b) In one sentence, summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ as you might explain it to a non-Christian:

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c) Your assignment is to share that sentence with at least one other person this week. Are you up for the challenge?

## MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."  
**(Galatians 2:20)**