

Galatians 2:1-10

One Tribe

Read 1. 1-5 together

- It's a matter of identity, of knowing not only who you were yourself but who else belonged in your group, your tribe, your ethnic family.
- Up until this point the Jewish law defines the Jewish family.
- The fact is that it is hard to spot a good Jewish person, how they observe the law, keep the Sabbath, eat kosher food; but to be circumcised there is no doubt; A sure-fire test.

Q. What ways does God speaks to you and guides you? Share the leadings of God's spirit in your life.

1. He went because God told him, by revelation but the reason for the visit was because of "Revelation", God told him to go to Jerusalem

2. He explained what he was preaching and wanted to keep the unity of the church. The Gospel: he would

lay the message before them. His companions:
Barnabas who was a Jew and Titus who was a Greek
and a convert to Paul's message to the gentiles. The
Message and the companions

Q. In solving problems and talking through issues how
confident are you?

3. He went to deal with the false teachers

Why? Because the Gospel is the announcement that
the crucified and risen Jesus is Lord of the world. And if
he is Lord of the world, then those who believe in him,
who give allegiance to him, must form a single family.
There can be no division based on nationhood or
race.

Paul's Tightrope

Read verses 6 -10

Q. How important do you see church unity? Take time
to pray about our church and its unity.

Runs the risk of breaking unity, so wants to keep the
unity

Wants to maintain the truth that he is called by
revelation, by Christ with the gospel

V6 no respecter of persons – God does not care whether someone has blue or brown eyes, is old or young, tall or short, over or under weight, male or female, rich or poor, well known or unknown. God's love for all alike is part of the gospel; forget it for a moment and you are off the cliff.

Then Paul speaks of the Jerusalem apostles as pillars, to hold up the temple, the living temple.

1. They added nothing to his message
2. They were happy to the division of the tasks
3. They urged him to remember the poor

Q. What mission do you think God has called our church to and how do we fit into the city?

The result was an energised relationship – a strange, intimate and powerful work of God.

If only church leaders, and ordinary members, could be humble enough to recognize the gracious work of the one God in and through those who work in a different way, with different people, and with different traditions, the gospel would go forward no matter how steep the cliff on either side.

Peters Theatricals verses 11 to 14

Q. In what ways do we wear masks in church?

Theatre – mask – suspend belief

The Greek word for play acting, deceitfully playing a part.

People were not sitting down and eating together –
Christian (Messiah people)

- Peter was influenced by people and the fear of people
- Peter was accused of theatricals, play acting
- Peter's revelation replaced by respectability

We must be who we truly are; you don't need masks or make-up in the Kingdom of God.

True Identity 15 to 21

- Lose ones identity and rebuild their Christian identity
- Live within that new identity, with new foundations
- Learn what is true of Christ and make it true of me
- Lay the table for all to come and join

One of the marks of Jesus' public career was open table fellowship. God intends it to be a mark of Jesus' people from that day to this.

Q. Talk though what it means to be crucified with Christ. What does that mean to you?