



**Series:** Thriving in Grace

**Passage:** Galatians 2:11-21 Psalm 133

**Title:** The Deceptive Snares of Performance Based Religion

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 2/16/2025

**Discussion Starter** – What personal characteristics, values, and priorities are required for truth to coexist with unity? How can you express and stand by truth while maintaining unity in a relationship? Or how can you promote unity in a relationship while championing truth?

### **Review Galatians 2:11-14**

1. What action words do you see Paul using in these verses that form the basis of his decision to “withstand Peter to his face”?
2. How was Peter “living as a gentile”? Was he a hypocrite?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that Peter was compelling the gentiles to live as Jews? What had Peter previously said about this issue in Acts 15:10?
4. Did Peter’s choices lead to a uniting or dividing of the church? Did Paul’s rebuke of Peter serve to unite or divide the church? Explain your answer to each.
  - a. How do your daily choices affect others in your life, both believers and unbelievers? Do you recognize your role as God’s representative to those around you?
  - b. What steps could be taken to approach an important issue with a fellow believer in a way that would maintain unity while prioritizing Truth?

### **Read Galatians 2:15-21**

5. What does Paul say is the only means of justification? What other path can never provide justification?
6. Were dietary restrictions designed to make people righteous? (Mark 7:18) What was the purpose of dietary and other ceremonial laws? (Exodus 19:5-6)
7. What purpose does God have for a people He calls “His special treasure”?
  - c. What is God’s purpose for your life as His adopted child?
8. How does Paul say he is related to the law? What did the law do to him?
  - d. What are the 2 unavoidable outcomes of living a performance-based faith?
  - e. Are “bible scholars” with sound doctrinal understanding immune from living a performance-based faith? Why or why not?
9. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? Is there any other path or rule that leads to a righteousness standing before God?

### **Read Psalm 133**

10. What is God’s plan for man? How is unity built or destroyed by division, humility, self-righteousness, and truth?
11. How is the blessing of unity described in verse 3?