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*"Grace alone brings about every good work in us,
and faith is the beginning of that work."
[Augustine]*

ENGAGE & CONNECT

If walking by faith earned you a creative badge, what would it say?" (i.e. "Professional Stumbler", "Hopeful Wanderer", "Trust Fall Champion")

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. "*
[Ephesians 2:8-9]

BIG IDEA

In being justified by Christ, we are freed from the fear of people in the present and God's judgement in the future.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

1. In the sermon we heard, *"We walk through life amassing a sense of who we are through all the feedback pinging back at us."* What recent feedback have you allowed to distract you from who God called you to be?

Galatians 2:11-21

2. What was the conflict between Paul and Peter? Why did Paul publicly confront Peter?
3. What does Paul say about how a person is justified before God?
4. What is the significance of Paul saying, *"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*?
5. The sermon talked about the "idol of approval." What makes approval such a powerful (wrong) motivator, even among Christians?
6. What are some signs that you may be slipping into "gospel amnesia"? How could knowing that you are fully approved in Christ change how you view yourself today?
7. What practical step can you take this week to remember and rest in your justification through Christ?

8. What would it look like for us, as a group, to confront hypocrisy or Gospel drift in love as Paul did with Peter?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Today, we witnessed a powerful moment when Paul publicly confronted Peter—not to shame him, but to [protect the truth of the Gospel](#). The danger was not just Peter’s withdrawal, but the false message it sent: that we gain approval through performance, not grace. Paul’s answer is justification by faith—a once-for-all declaration that we are fully accepted in Christ. This Gospel truth frees us from the exhausting quest for human approval and gives us a firm foundation of joy and peace.

As you consider your next step, here are questions to reflect on: 1) Where am I seeking approval apart from Christ—and what fruit is it producing? 2) Do I believe that I am as accepted and loved today as I will be in heaven? Why or why not?

Possible Next Steps of Faith

1. Spend 5 minutes daily meditating on Galatians 2:20. Let it reframe your identity.
2. Identify one “approval source” you’re tempted to trust in. Confess it and ask God to help you replace it with His Gospel assurance.

PRAYER FOCUS

Loved to Love

Today, let’s remind one another of Christ’s love and be refreshed to love others through it.

- Take a few moments to silently reflect on this question: “[What’s one way you’ve personally experienced God’s love recently?](#)” Keep it simple—just a word, image, or short moment.
- Briefly (15 seconds or less) share *a word or short phrase* that captures how you’ve felt or seen God’s love. (i.e. “peace”, “grace through a friend”, “patience”).
- Pray a simple 1-2 sentence prayer aloud, starting with something like:
 - “Thank you, God, for showing us your love through ...”
 - “Help us love others today by ...”
- There is no pressure to pray aloud—just pass to the next person if you prefer to listen.

“Father, thank You for loving us in Jesus. Refresh our hearts so we might overflow with Your love to others today. Amen.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Galatians Ch. 2 Commentary](#) & [Crucified With Christ](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Smash the Approval Idol](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.