

Philippians: Finding Joy Right Where You Are!

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Gal. 2:12-16 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles

¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Point

We are all a part of the same race: the human race. The need for the grace of God places everyone on the same level.

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What foods do you have a bias for or against?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- The word "conceit" in Phil 2:3 comes from a compound Greek word which puts two concepts together; "empty" and "glory." Kyle mentioned that often our disunity comes because people are "glory empty" or "glory starved." In what ways do you observe that people are glory starved?
- Take some time to read Acts 10 as a group. What aspects of racism and racial reconciliation can you find in this text?
- Galatians 2:12-16 is about two primary issues: Grace and race. Discuss how grace and race are related in this passage.

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- In Deuteronomy 4:5-7, what are the reasons God has given Israel different laws and customs? Do you think Christianity is similar or different from this? Why?
- Kyle said "Christianity asserts that there is only one race, the human race. How would you explain that to a person who didn't have an understanding of Biblical history?"
- Race isn't the only thing that causes inequality. What are some of the other things that contribute?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for our country, its leadership, and opportunities to be an agent of reconciliation.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Philippians 2:3-4 is an excellent passage to commit to memory. Plan on when you will take time to read this passage 5 times each day to work on remembering it.