

The Practice That Makes the Church Run Well

Gal. 2:11-20

Introduction:

- A. To run well, we must practice a certain standard of behavior..
 - 1. As individuals, in our daily conduct.
 - 2. As a church, in our collective responsibilities.
- B. To run well, we need to look closely certain marks of our practice indicated by our text.

Discussion

I. Our Practice Needs to Be Without Dissimulation (vv. 12-13)

- A. Peter and others “played the hypocrite.” (NKJV)
 - 1. Behaved differently toward Gentiles before Jews came from Jerusalem.
 - 2. Behavior depended on who was present, not on what was right.
- B. Jesus reserved his sharpest words for hypocrites (cf. Matt. 23)
- C. Our practice should be “what you see is what you get.”
 - 1. Not one person in one setting and another in another.
 - 2. Not one person at home and another away from home.
 - 3. Not one person at church and another away from church.
 - 4. Do change behavior toward certain people to impress other people.

II. Our Practice Needs to Be According to the Truth of the Gospel (v. 14)

- A. The gospel requires a certain “walk” or way of life.
 - 1. One that is upright or straightforward – leaves no doubt where one stands.
 - 2. One that show respect of the gospel in word and deed.
- B. The truth of the gospel rather than the “works of the law.” (vv. 16-19)
 - 1. Christians are not under the law of Moses (3:24-25)
 - 2. However, Christians are under a law (1 Cor. 9:21; Rom. 3:27; 8:2; Gal. 6:2; Jas. 1:25; 2:12)

III. Our Practice Needs to Be a Demonstration of Christ in us (v. 20)

- A. By crucifying ourselves, so that our lives are no longer ours but his.
 - 1. Paul preached not himself, but Christ (2 Cor. 4:5)
 - 2. Disciples must deny themselves (Matt. 16:24; Luke 14:33)
- B. By letting Christ live in us.
 - 1. By living “by the faith of the Son of God.”
 - 2. By abiding in the word of Christ (John 15:5, 7).
- C. “Christ has no hands but our hands...” (See song)

Conclusion:

- A. To run well, we must live genuinely , according to truth, and demonstrating Christ to the world.
- B. Begin now practicing the truth of the gospel by obeying it to be saved.