

# PREACHING CURRICULUM



**SERMON TITLE:** Sincere, but Sincerely Wrong

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 2:11-21

*But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face...*

## 1 REVIEW THE SERMON

**Read Galatians 2:11-14.** Why did Paul find it necessary to confront Cephas (Peter) in Antioch? How was Peter's conduct out of step with the truth of the gospel? What effect did Peter's behaviour have on others in the Christian community?

How did Paul address the issue of Peter's behaviour? Why did he confront Peter about it publicly?

**Read John 17:20-22.** What is Jesus's prayer and desire for his disciples in these verses?

How is the biblical teaching on the need to confront false teaching and sinful behaviour in the church consistent with Christ's prayer for Christian unity? Why do we often find it so hard to put these two ideas together?

## 2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

When is "being nice" actually wrong? How do we know when a strong rebuke is needed? What is the difference between giving a necessary rebuke and just being cantankerous?

How does our culture encourage us to be "nice" at the expense of truth? How might you be affected by this cultural habit?

## 3 APPLY THE TRUTH

Under what circumstances is strong public confrontation needed today? How does the church maintain both its commitment to sound doctrine and to Christian unity at the same time? How is this especially challenging in today's culture?

What happens when churches fail to deal with false doctrine and sinful practices in their midst? Why is it so important to maintain Christian unity around essential Christian doctrine?

## 4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

How can we grow in our ability to be bold and straightforward in telling the truth for the sake of Christian unity? What might it look like this week?