



## Crucified With Christ

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### Week 3

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#### Alpha Prayer Points

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who continue to meet in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups (these groups are a new experiment to try to connect people to the church). Pray that as they gather they would encounter God in their midst.
- Pray for God to draw people to the October 7 Movie & Taco event. May they find genuine fellowship and be drawn towards friendship with Jesus.
  - Praise God that the Tacos in Hermann Park event last weekend was not entirely rained out, but instead successfully relocated to FPC. Even though it was in a church, 43 people still came—and now have a positive experience/association with a church community.
  - Praise God for someone who, after going to a previous Taco event, has started coming to FPC for worship and got connected into community this past Sunday!
- Fall 2023 Alpha starts October 26th at 8 am. Pray that Presbyterian School parents come, and that there is momentum for others to join this upcoming Alpha session. Pray also for God to raise up leaders and for smooth logistics.

## How Did it Go?

*10 Minutes*

PROVIDE SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE ANOTHER IN PUTTING THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE. WE WANT TO FIND WAYS TO LIVE OUT THE SCRIPTURE WE STUDY.

- What stuck with you from last week's study, and how were you able to put that into practice in your life?
- Did anything get in the way between you and living out the word of God that you studied last week? If so, what? How can you intentionally plan to counteract that this week?

## Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 2:11-21**.

## Head

*15-20 Minutes*

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. Why in this multicultural environment did Paul confront Simon Peter (Cephas)? What was Peter doing that led Paul to challenge him?
2. What confusion occurred between Jewish and Gentile Christians about faith in Christ and the works of the law?
3. Why does Paul say the law is no longer necessary?
4. What is the result of Paul being "crucified with Christ"?

## Heart

*15-20 Minutes*

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. In verse 14, Paul sees that the circumcision group is "not acting in line with the truth of the gospel." Where might our own thoughts, attitudes, or behaviors have gotten out of alignment with the truth of the gospel? Be as specific as possible.
2. How could we as a small group hold ourselves and one another accountable to acting in line with the truth of the gospel? What would that look like practically, for our particular group?
3. How would our daily lives look different if we were living in light of the gospel truth of verses 19-21? In other words, visualize how your life would be transformed if you

“allowed” the fullness of the gospel to have full reign in your life. (Again, try to be as specific as possible so that this becomes real and practical instead of theoretical.)

## Hands

*10 Minutes*

**APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION  
LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES. THESE ARE SPECIFIC,  
CONCRETE EXAMPLES BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY - THEY ARE IDEA-STARTERS  
FOR HOW TO PUT THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE.**

### Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Consider visiting a church that rightly affirms the gospel message and is outside your cultural or demographic background. Explore what about their worship makes you uncomfortable and what feels familiar.
- Pray about areas of your life where you have exhibited hypocrisy by not loving, supporting, and befriending fellow Christians who did not meet “your” cultural norms.
- Pray and ask God to show you ways you can grow into living from an identity founded on being “crucified with Christ.” (We all need to grow in living in line with the gospel truth throughout our lives.)

### Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Have you avoided someone in your midst because they did not align with your “version” of a Christian? Reach out and meet with that person using the right perspective Paul reminds us of in Galatians.
- Houston is a multicultural city. Houston Welcomes Refugees, an FPC Mission Partner, provides friendship and community when refugees from around the world start new lives in Houston. Go to [www.houstonwelcomesrefugees.com](http://www.houstonwelcomesrefugees.com) to learn about the many ways to serve. How could your small group participate? In welcoming a family and loving them across cultural boundaries, by preparing a welcome kit, by being part of a move-in team, or by being part of a welcome team?

### Reaching Beyond

- Choose your own adventure: what other ways might you put the Scripture into practice this week?
- RSVP to Madie Weir [mweir@fpchouston.org](mailto:mweir@fpchouston.org) for the lunch time September 28 Local Mission Partner Field Trip to Open Door Mission, a faith and evidence-based recovery program and facilities dedicated to helping the unsheltered population in Houston.