Series: What Makes the Church Run Well (Gal. 5:7)

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.