

6. We should seek to bring all of our life in line with the gospel.

Human beings are forever trying to add something to God's completed work of salvation. It may be Jesus Christ and the mass, or Jesus Christ and water baptism, or Jesus Christ and good works, or Jesus Christ and a charismatic experience. Paul's argument is that nothing, absolutely nothing, can be mingled with Christ as a ground of our acceptance with God. Our hope is built on nothing less—and nothing more—than Jesus' blood and righteousness.<sup>1</sup>

A life aligned with the gospel is a life lived in the light of our \_\_\_\_\_ and God's \_\_\_\_\_, our desperate need of grace and God's amazing provision of it.

## Applications and Relationships in Line with the Gospel Galatians 2:1-5, 11-14

1. While a church family must seek to be trusting, we must also be cautious because there can be influences in the church away from the grace of Christ.
  
2. A church family must be alert for one another's spiritual wellbeing without spying on one another's freedoms.

We need to make sure we are watching for those things that are

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<sup>1</sup> George, T. (1994). *Galatians* (Vol. 30, p. 153). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

3. As much as possible, Christians should try to ensure that the pressure others feel in the church is the pressure of the clear word of God, not the traditions or additions of men.

4. We must not strive to maintain a reputation for holding to certain gospel-living applications even though we don't truly practice them or believe that they are necessary for all believers.

Clarifications:

- You should hold to your own gospel applications even when you don't believe they are necessary for all believers (Romans 14:12, 23).
- You should seek to live in a way that is consistent with your own applications (Gal. 2:13).
- You do not need to flaunt your applications if you have more freedom in your conscience than someone else (Rom. 14:22).
- You should seek to avoid being a stumbling block to others who have different applications (1 Cor. 8:7-13).

5. We must not withdraw fellowship (particularly eating together) from other believers because of differences in gospel-living applications.

Peter withdrew fellowship from some Christians (#5), not because of his own gospel-living applications, but actually in contradiction of them. He withdrew because of a desire to maintain a certain (though hypocritical) reputation for holding to a certain application (#4).