



## SDG Discussion Guide

### "Missions: A Wake-up Call"

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:34; Galatians 2:11-14

June 25, 2017

For starters:

Now that you have given some extra thought to "missions" during this sermon series, what have you learned? Or, what comes to mind now when you think of "missions." Or, what kind of "mission" are you drawn to?

Interaction with the text (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon texts. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective texts.).

1. How were Peter and the other Jews not "acting in line with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:11-14)?

2. How might their actions have forced "Gentiles to follow Jewish customs" (v 14)?

*For the following questions, read the remainder of Galatians 2, to verse 21.*

3. Why is it not right to make such customs a basis of fellowship (vv 15-16)?

4. How does Paul refute the accusation that Christ promotes sin (vv 17-19)?

5. How has Christ enabled us to die to the law and to live for God (v 20)?

6. What nonessential customs do Christians sometimes impose on each other? (For example, about lifestyle decisions and habits, or certain ways of praying, or certain ways to dress.) Which of these are you most likely to be concerned about? Where are you inclined to favoritism?

7. Have you ever felt like avoiding some Christians that exhibit certain characteristics? Perhaps you have trouble with their theology. Or you disapprove of their lifestyle. Be transparent with your group.

8. How can God's acceptance of you help you to be more accepting of others? How can that acceptance not only help you accept others, but inspire you to reach out to others for what really matters?

Spend some time in prayer together. Pray for discernment about your own attitudes toward those in your life where there is unacceptance. Ask God to help you turn away from that which keeps you bound to those attitudes. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your attitude and show you something new that will help you in that relationship. Pray for God's renewal for your group, that you may awaken anew to God's acceptance of you and his desire for all to know of his acceptance and love. Ask God to use your experiences in life and knowledge of him to bring others in your midst to know Christ.

\*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).