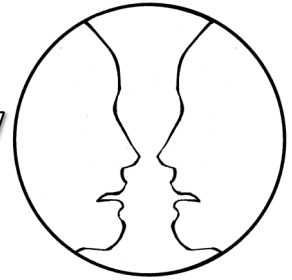


Lesson #3-34**Church Leaders at Odds: Peter and Paul**

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

**Key Verse:**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

Galatians 2:19b-20

The Point:

God loves us not because of who we are or what we do but because of who God is and what God has done for us.

What's on the Inside

Matching the outside to the inside.

You will need:

- † Identical bags of candy
- † Small stones, rice, or different type of candy
- † Clear bowls

Before class:

1. Prepare two bags of candy with the candy type clearly marked on the packaging: leave one with the candy in, and replace the candy in the second bag with small stones, rice, or some other type of candy.

During class:

1. **Today we are hearing a story about making what's on the inside match our outside actions. Sometimes this can be hard to do, so we are going to look at it in a couple of different ways.**
2. This story can be challenging to understand. It may help to read it from a less formal Bible translation such as The Message to help make it more clear for participants.
3. To further clarify, invite volunteers to retell this story in their own words or

to think of a similar modern-day example. **How might this story sound if it were written today? When might someone say one thing but do something different?**

4. Invite two volunteers to come forward. Give each volunteer one glass bowl (continue to hold the candy bags so inconsistencies will not be detected).
5. Ask: **What will happen when I pour out these two bags of candy?** [*Accept all answers.*] Pour the first bag of candy into the glass bowl of one of the volunteers. **Is that what you expected to happen?** Open the second bag and ask, **What will happen when I pour this bag out?** Dramatically pour this bag into the second bowl.
6. Debrief with the following questions:
 - **What were you expecting to find in the second bag?** [*Candy; the same as the first.*]
 - **How did you feel when your group's bag did not contain what it should?** [*Confused; cheated; surprised; angry*]
 - **Have you ever met people whose outside words do not match their inside actions? How does that make you feel?**
7. **It is important for our words to match our actions. If we say we believe something, we shouldn't change our behavior when we are nervous about what other people will think. As Christians, we act the way we do as a response to God's great love for us. We do not do the right thing to try and prove how good we are or to earn God's love; we try to do the right thing in response to God's love for us and because we care for those around us.**
8. **It takes lots of strength and character to develop this ability. One thing that is helpful during difficult times is knowing that our friends and family at church are there to help us do what we say we believe.**