



Sabbath School Ministry

Sabbath School Department Inter-European Division

Outline with ideas for group discussion largely taken from the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.

Lesson no.: 03 09 – 14 July 2017

Title: The Unity of the Gospel

Key texts: **Gal.2:1-14; Philippians 2:2; 1 Cor.1:10-13; John 8:31-36; Gen. 17:1-21; Colossians 3:11.**

A. Themes to Explore:

1. The desire to maintain tradition as required practice (for example that of the Jews), compromises the possibility of genuine understanding of the Gospel.
2. The Jews believed that they were free and saved by circumcision, but only faith in Christ renders us truly free.
3. When preaching the Gospel to different cultures, consideration of the receptiveness of the audience must inform the way in which it is presented.

B. Learning Objectives*

- Know:** Examine the fundamental principles for establishing unity among believers from different cultures, such as between Jews and Gentiles.
- Feel:** Consider the tension that arose around the question of circumcision in the light of the Gospel of grace.
- Do:** **Establish as a fundamental factor and criterion the truth about righteousness by faith in the grace offered us by Jesus.**

C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
 - 1a. Why did circumcision create so many problems in the early church? What parallels can be drawn between that situation and current issues in the church?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
 - 2a. What did the Jews receive from circumcision that we can receive and experience only in Christ?
 - 2b. What lesson can we learn from the conflict between Peter and Paul at Antioch? How can we apply these lessons to the multicultural society that we find in Europe today?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
 - 3a. What "traditions" could threaten an understanding and experience founded only on Christ?
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
 - 4a. What fundamental elements must remain in our witness to different cultures and traditions?

NOTES:

- * Copied from the Teachers Edition that adopts active, functional and sharing principles (Know, Feel, Do).
** To compare and use together with the final questions found in the lesson study every Friday.
*** The questions in red are drawn from the Teachers Edition.