

## Anvil Staff 1980



## Painesville, Ohio

Racism is a complex and emotional issue. It influences and shapes African Americans in ways white Americans will never fully understand. Painesville, Ohio provided a witness that community in the midst of racial diversity is possible. But, it is Paul's witness in Galatians 2:11-21 that serves a spiritual foundation. We are saved by faith in Christ, not by the color of our skin or our cultural practices. In this faith we no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ who lives in us. Sounds great, now how do we make it happen?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are the challenges of discussing difficult issues such as race, politics, poverty electronically, i.e. Facebook, email, etc... How do these challenges change when the discussion is taking place face-to-face?
2. How do you treat people who disagree with you? What could you do to communicate hope with these people? What steps could you take to avoid promoting fear?
3. Read Galatians 2: 11-21. What caused Peter to withdraw from the Gentiles? What were the implications of Jews withdrawing from fellowship with Gentiles? How does this separation promote fear?
4. What are the similarities between the Foxhole Analogy —Are you going to fight to save my life the same way I am going to fight to save and protect yours?— and Christian faith?

### Memory Verse:

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.*

### Challenge:

What can you do to help create a social gathering between your church or small group and another church or small group of a different race? Simply to begin socializing