



## Staying in Step When the Gospel is at Stake

*Galatians 2:11-14*

### REVIEW

1. Paul's greeting with elements of the gospel (Gal 1:1-5)
2. Paul takes a serious tone in the letter (Gal 1:6-10)
3. Paul's narrative of his ministry to date (Gal 1:11-2:10)



Timeline of  
Paul's Ministry

### NOTES:

### PETER'S ACTIONS...

#### 1. ...cause a disassociation with his brothers and sisters.

*Gal.2:11* But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

- a. Peter's own actions showed his guilt – there was no argument.
- b. Peter's fear caused a change in his behavior.
- c. Peter ended his meal fellowship with Gentile believers.

#### 2. ...cause ripple effects throughout the church, putting unity in danger.

*Gal. 2:13* And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

- a. As a leader, Peter's influence causes others to break fellowship, even other leaders.
- b. Christian hypocrisy: We believe one way but we act another.  
*Col. 2:6-7* Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- c. Unity within the community is threatened.

*Rom. 14:3* Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

### 3. ...sends the message, “liberty for me but not for thee.” (v. 14)

*Gal. 3:14* But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

- a. Being out of step with the gospel kept the Gentiles from experiencing true freedom.
- b. An error that affected the church was addressed in front of the church.
- c. Peter’s influence made his actions tantamount to coercion of the Gentiles.
- d. Our faith in Christ impacts our life in Christ

#### REVIEW/DISCUSS

1. How do you see Peter’s hypocrisy – believing one way but acting in a different way – in churches today? How does this impact the power of the gospel?
2. In today’s passage, we see that the unity of the Antioch community was in jeopardy. What things today can cause disunity in our churches? What are ways that we can promote unity around the gospel without forcing uniformity?

#### APPLY

1. Peter had Paul to point out the hypocrisy in his life. As uncomfortable as it may have been, it was for the sake of the gospel and honored the Lord. Do you have someone in your life that can do the same for you? If yes, what benefits have you seen in your life? If no, who can be that person for you?

#### SONGS

Bless The Lord O My Soul  
His Mercy Is More  
Just As I Am  
Jesus Paid It All  
We Fall Down

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