

Small Group Guide 5

Paul Rebukes Peter

Galatians 2:11-21

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. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 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?" ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

1. Peter's Compromise v. 11-13

- A Personal Compromise
- A Compromise in Leadership

2. Paul's Rebuke v. 14-21

- What Paul Saw
- What Paul Said
- It was a Public Rebuke
- It was a Doctrinal Rebuke
 - The law never saved anyone...not even the Jews
 - Legalism and grace are incompatible...
 - Why rebuild a dead system
 - Christian's are dead to the law
 - The law makes Christ death unnecessary

Questions for Further Application:

In which areas have you been increasingly walking in line with the gospel over the last month?
The last year?

Are there people in your church you have not been "eating with" because they are not "like you"? What self-righteousness lies beneath this attitude?

After Paul rebuked Peter he turned to the Gospel for motivation. How could you motivate yourself, and other Christians, less with guilt and more with the gospel?

When has the fear of man outweighed the fear of God in your life? Why is it more important to fear God?

How would you explain the difference between being moral and being a Christian to someone who thinks being good makes them acceptable to God?