

Pastor Dave – Sunday Sun 29th Sept

Galatians – No Other Gospel.

Title – A Necessary Confrontation

Most of us have experienced confrontation once if not multiple times in our lives.

- Many of us try to avoid it.
- Some embrace it.
- Maybe a few that like it.

Confrontation can be minor – it can be unexpected issues – and it can be important issues.

- Some confrontation shouldn't happen – some confrontation is unavoidable, and some is unnecessary.

John Stott – Quote - Commentary in Galatians.

This is one of the most significant and impactful confrontations that is recorded in the New Testament.

- A confrontation between two apostles.
- A very public confrontation.

Galatians 2:11-21 Christian Standard Bible

Freedom from the Law

¹¹ But when Cephas^[a] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.^[b] ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas^[c] in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?" ^[d]

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth and not "Gentile sinners," ¹⁶ and yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ,^[e] even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ^[f] and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human

being will^[a] be justified. ¹⁷ But if we ourselves are also found to be “sinners” while seeking to be justified by Christ, is Christ then a promoter^[b] of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,^[c] I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Point # 1 – Peters hypocritical legalism requires correction.

Galatians 2:11-21 Christian Standard Bible

Freedom from the Law

¹¹ But when Cephas^[a] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.^[b] ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party.

Key point – Peter here at the end of chapter 2 is being hypocritical and legalistic.

Paul is telling us that this is a necessary confrontation.

As we remember from the beginning of chapter 2 – Paul is defending his apostleship – to the other apostles and the church in Jerusalem.

- He spoke about early in the chapter that they didn't add or supplement anything to the preaching of the gospel.
- They affirmed the gospel that he was preaching to the gentiles.

James – Cephas (Peter) – John – those recognised as the pillars, acknowledged the grace that had been given to him - gave Paul and Barnabas the righthand of fellowship.

- Reminding them that his apostleship was affirmed - That he had the authority to approach and confront another apostle, about something they were doing wrong.

Focusing on the hypocrisy that Peter is demonstrating as it is something that we can all relate to.

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia – definition.

In general, the meaning of hypocrisy is – acting apart – false – deceptive – and deceived – formally and outwardly religious and good, but inwardly insecure and unrighteous. The hypocrite may come to deceive himself as well as others.

Peter was acting hypocritical – legalistic.

Paul opposed him to his face.

I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.^[b] ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party.

- He had a fear of man and not a fear of God.

Peter professing one thing and living nothing like!

- Claiming to be a Christian – but not practicing what he was preaching.

People using this then to reject the gospel of Jesus Christ.

People would see this and say – “If that is how a Christian lives his life I am not interested”.

Hypocrisy – other end of it – much like Peter is doing.

- Faining Spiritual attitude, more than necessary.
- Falling into legalism.

Wanting to be liked by people like this, fancying themselves to be more spiritual than others.

This comes up in Acts 10 and 11.

Peter should have seen this coming.

In Acts 10 – Peter had a vision from the Lord – he is in Joppa

Acts 10 English Standard Version

Peter and Cornelius

10 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day^[a] he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter had the vision 3 times.

God preparing Peter to fellowship – eat and share the gospel with the gentiles.

Peter's Vision

⁹ The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour^[b] to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. ¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸ and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation,^[c] for I have sent them.” ²¹ And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?” ²² And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” ²³ So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter

entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.” ³⁰ And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour,^[d] and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ ³³ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Acts 11 – Peter telling other Jews about it.

Acts 11 Christian Standard Bible

Gentile Salvation Defended

11 The apostles and the brothers and sisters who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. ² When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, ³ saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴ Peter began to explain to them step by step, ⁵ “I was in the town of Joppa praying, and I saw, in a trance, an object that resembled a large sheet coming down, being lowered by its four corners from heaven, and it came to me. ⁶ When I looked closely and considered it, I saw the four-footed animals of the earth, the wild beasts, the reptiles, and the birds of the sky. ⁷ I also heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ “No, Lord!” I said. ‘For nothing impure or ritually unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a voice answered from heaven a second time, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call impure.’

¹⁰ “Now this happened three times, and everything was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment, three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to accompany them with no doubts at all. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we went into the man’s house. ¹³ He reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa, and call for Simon, who is also named Peter. ¹⁴ He will speak a message to you by which you and all your household will be saved.’

¹⁵ “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came down on them, just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

¹⁷ If, then, God gave them the same gift that he also gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, how could I possibly hinder God?"

¹⁸ When they heard this they became silent. And they glorified God, saying, "So then, God has given repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles."

Peter knew the gospel and the power of it to reach the Gentiles.

- Then men came from the circumcision party and Peter falls back and withdraws into hypocrisy and legalism.

Look how easy it would be for us to do the same thing.

Galatians 2:21 English Standard Version

²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness^[a] were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Paul sees the hypocrisy and sees the need for a necessary confrontation.

- Some Christians struggle to confront another believer if they are not living as they should.

If something happens publicly then it needs to be dealt with publicly.

Paul corrective in front of other people, because it is affecting other people.

If it happens privately – then it needs to be dealt with privately.

For the sake of the bible he confronts Peter publicly.

Point # 2 – Hypocrisy Impacts Other People

Galatians 2:13 Christian Standard Bible

¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

- Unsaved people – giving them an excuse – why they wouldn't come to Christ
- And it impacts other believers.

Two Tier Christianity.

- Gentile Believers
- Jewish Believers

Things expressed like – “You know the Gentile believers; they are not as good as Jewish believers.

Ref verse 13 –

- These kinds of statements upsetting Paul all the more.

Especially as Paul spent extended periods of time with Barnabas sharing the gospel.

Barnabas now falling in line with other Jews in the circumcision party.

Double standards.

- Proposed here.
- Proclaimed here.

Proclaiming Gentiles to live like Jews.

Peter leading other believers astray.

- This was a gospel issue.

An example might be holding on to a doctrinal issue.

Here is a gospel issue.

Peter in these moments teaching others out of the way he was living.

- Jesus plus circumcision.

When prior to this he was hanging out with Gentiles.

Peter – Now maybe I should be hanging out with Jews.

Key Point – Our hypocrisy impacts other people – our deviating from the gospel impacts others.

Point # 3 – Legalism opposes the justification of God.

We can fall into a – Jesus and works gospel if we are not careful.

If we live our faith appropriately, we will live our faith and works as a part of that.

Why does Paul confront Peter so strongly on this.

Galatians 2:15 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth and not “Gentile sinners,”

Verse 16 -

¹⁶ I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

Reminding him we are Jews and not Gentile sinners but know that we cannot be saved by works.

Justification

- When we put our faith in Jesus Christ Almighty, we are justified.

Picture a court room.

- Stood before a judge – guilty of the crime – pleading your innocence.

And then sentenced for the crime.

Then thinking about what Paul is teaching here.

Romans 3:23-24 Christian Standard Bible

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the^[a] glory of God; ²⁴ they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

We have all sinned and await the sentence being given out.

Not this essence of self-righteousness.

Gods law telling us we are totally guilty.

Not just faith in Jesus Christ – then these things and then these things.

- When it is faith in Christ alone.

Galatians 2:18-19 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁸ If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God.

Verse 20 – the beauty of it.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,^[1] I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I don't take it or see it aside.

²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

If we still have to rely on the law to be justified – then what Jesus did for us means nothing.

It is important that we are reminded...

The life we are living we live by faith.

Embrace The Cross - Song by Steve Green

I am crucified with Christ
Therefore, I no longer live
Jesus Christ now lives in me
(Repeat twice)

Embrace the cross
Where Jesus suffered
Though it will cost
All you claim as yours
Your sacrifice will seem small
Beside the treasure
Eternity can't measure

What Jesus holds in store

Embrace the love
The cross requires
Cling to the one
Whose heart knew every pain
Receive from Jesus
Fountains of compassion
Only He can fashion
Your heart to move as His

Oh, wondrous cross our desires rest in you
Lord Jesus make us bolder
To face with courage the shame and disgrace
You bore upon Your shoulder

Embrace the life
That comes from dying
Come trace the steps
The Savior walked for you
An empty tomb
Concludes Golgotha's sorrow
Endure then till tomorrow
Your cross of suffering
Embrace the cross
Embrace the cross
The cross of Jesus

Challenge –

Christian – Are you guilty of hypocrisy?

Confess it before God as sin.

- Walk into righteousness before God
- Walk away from it.

Reminded that we are crucified in Christ.