

Galatians 2:11-21 Study

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ GALATIANS 2:11-21

NOTE: Paul refers to a confrontation he had with Cephas (also called Peter) while in Antioch in Syria (with a large population of Greek Gentiles). Peter had been eating meals with both Jewish and Gentile Christians until some Jewish believers from James arrived. After their arrival, Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles. (Strict Jews would not eat with Gentiles because they ate some foods forbidden by Old Testament law. Additionally, the circumcision party advocated following the Mosaic covenant law regarding circumcision, food and special days.)

1. What were the descriptions Paul used to emphasize his strong opposition to Cephas' behavior toward the Gentile believers?

2. List the harm that was done or could have been done to the community resulting from Cephas' hypocrisy.

3. What message had the Lord clearly given to Peter (Cephas) in Acts 10:9-35?

4. What drove Cephas to withdraw from the Gentiles ignoring what he the Lord had shown him (Proverbs 29:25)? Why do you he fell prey to this? In what ways do you struggle with fear?

5. Paul addressed Cephas' behavior regarding the Gentiles "before them all" (v. 14). Explain the manner in which he did so. Do you think it was wise that he did this publically? Why or why not?

6. Cephas' vacillation drives Paul's focus to what key Christian doctrine?

7. Read Romans 7:7-12. What is the purpose of the law? If obeying the law cannot justify us, why should we follow it?

8. Explain what it meant for Paul to die to the law so he might live for Christ? What does this mean to you personally in your daily life?