

## Justified By Faith

Read Galatians 2:11-13 – Hypocrisy is something all Christians should strive to avoid. It is a sin. Jesus pointed to more hypocrisy within His own people and their religion than any other in the Gospels. Why does Paul tell this story to the Galatians?

- When Peter came to Antioch, he had already had the vision from God about what can be eaten. Acts 10: 9-16
  - God was preparing Peter for this meeting in Antioch, and it was a huge shift for a Jewish boy from Judah. He was to eat what they eat and fellowship with the Gentile brothers and sisters.
  - Peter was eating with Gentiles, but when disciples from James, his other Jewish brethren showed up, he stopped and “pulled away” from them.
  - Keller says, what was far more surprising than Peter stopping his eating of their food is the fact that he had started eating with them in the first place. [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 51-52.
- Timothy Keller goes on to say that Peter more than likely was afraid. Afraid of the criticism he might receive from his Jewish brothers that came to see him [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 52-53

- There was no doubt these Jewish Apostles from Jerusalem were struggling with doing the will of God and socializing/communing with Gentiles. All of their lives they were told Gentiles were unclean. Do not socialize with them in public, and never go into their home. This is a big transition for them, a paradigm shift of thinking for the Israelites. Up until Jesus, God had made it known they were not to intermarry with Gentiles and never to practice their ways and culture.

- Vs. 13 Paul says even Barnabas got caught up in this hypocritical thinking.

Read Chapter 2: 14-16 - Paul calls out Peter in front of the Jewish brethren from James, and the others to make sure everyone understood what Peter was doing was not the will of Christ. If you are now living like a Gentile, eating their food, not practicing the rituals of your fathers, not going to synagogue with the rest of the Jews, and maybe not even observing the Sabbath, how can they [Gentiles] now be expected to follow Jewish laws and customs.

- Paul, says “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentile to live like a Jew”?
  - Peter wanted legalism or nationalism. [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 54-55
- Vs. 15-16 – Paul continues in these 2 verses sharing what he told Peter “to his face”.

- Paul is not calling out Gentiles as “sinners” when he says, “Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners”. He is stating the fact that Jews had the laws of eating clean animals and him and Peter were brought up with all of God’s laws. The Gentiles did not have these laws and thus made them “sinners” without knowing. The Jews always looked at Gentiles as never being able to get into heaven and thus were “sinners”. Paul is speaking to them in the “vernacular”. What they grow up understanding. He did not mean Gentiles are “sinners”. Verse 16 & 17 he says as much.
- Vs.16 – “yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.... Because by works of the law no one will be justified”.
  - Keller explains the term “justification” as a legal term. [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 59. The opposite of justified is condemned. Though we are still sinners and condemned it is through Christ we become uncondemnable.

Read Chapter 2:17 – What is Paul saying?

- “But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, **we** too were found to be sinners...” Who is “**we**” Paul is referencing? Go back to verse 15. He is referring to himself and Peter.

- The Judaizers are harassing the Jewish Christians and these Judaizers believe b/c Paul and Peter are ignoring the “purity” laws handed down to them by Moses. They are saying that Paul and Peter are no better than the Gentile “sinners”, and this Jesus they follow is approving of them eating with Gentiles, so that makes Him “a servant of sin”. “May it never be” or “Certainly not!” Paul says.

Read Chapter 2:18 – “For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor” – What is Paul saying?

- Christ broke down the barrier between Gentile and Jew by fulfilling the law completely. Something they [all Jews up until Christ] could not do. If Paul rebuilds the barrier that Jesus removed, he will be sinning and in direct violation of what God has done for all of the believers.
  - When you presume that you can earn your way into heaven you are transgressing against God.

Read Chapter 2:19 – “For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God” – What is Paul saying?

- When Paul was a Pharisee, he thought he was being very moral and good. “But it was all for Paul, never for God” – Keller [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 60.

- Our acceptance of the Gospel and not how many things we can do right “gives us a new and stronger motive for obeying God” – Keller [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 61

Read Chapter 2:20-21 – Paul is still talking to Peter, recounting for the Galatians the conversation him and Peter had. Reminding Peter of what is true. What Paul says to Peter applies to all Christians, then and now, and should be lived.

- Because of what Christ has done and b/c I believe in Him I am dead to my old life. As a man I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins, I am right in the site of God and will dwell with him when I move beyond this life to the next. Nothing I did got me this new life and nothing I do will take it away, so there is no need to follow the old Mosaic law.
- Vs.21 – What Paul is telling Peter is applicable to the Galatians and us today. If righteousness is through works, or the old Jewish law then Christ did nothing and there was no purpose to His death.

**Question:**

1. Is Christ’s death everything to you? What difference does this make to your love for Him and your actions in life?
2. How would you explain “justification by faith” to someone who has never been to church before?