

# Peter, Paul, and Proof

## (IV)

Paul and Peter were in conflict once –

- Peter was wrong, not Paul
- The only example on record: one apostle corrected another
  - Apostles, though inspired, were not above sin

Gal.2:11-13

- Peter goes to Antioch
- Visitors from Jerusalem show up
- Peter plays the hypocrite

## Galatians 2:11-21

- Illustrates the pressure / bullying influence of Judaizers
  - Combative
  - Must have their way

# I. Details in Galatians 2:11-21

## 11:

- Peter comes to Antioch, never suspecting that he will be pressured to compromise
- This is his third visit with Paul: 1:18; 2:1-9...
  1. Paul withstood him... 2 Tim.3:8 ... Ja.4:7
  2. To his face – NOT behind his back

Public sin → public correction

He was to be blamed [condemn, convict]

## 12:

- Before certain men came from James
  - Messengers? No evidence these were same as those of Ac.15:1, 24
  - James agreed with Paul (2:9; Ac.15:13-17)

At Antioch, Peter was eating with Gentiles...

- When Jews came, he withdrew – drew back
- Peter gave no defense
- Inspiration did not prevent sins
- Bullies often use fear / force to get their way

## 12:

- Peter feared those of the circumcision [Jews by birth, believers in Christ]. Ac.21:20
  - Peter had answered Jewish Christians (upset over Cornelius) – Ac.11:1-18
- Peter preached truth – Ac.2:39
  - Ac.10:28, Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”
- He differed from Paul in conduct ... not doctrine

## 13:

Peter's fears influenced others  
to join his hypocrisy

- 'Rest of the Jews' [Christians in Antioch]
- Ac.15:35 ... Paul and Barnabas ... in Antioch
- But now: Ga.2:13 – even Barnabas is carried away
  - 2 Pt.3:17 – Peter uses this word to warn Christians: *do not be carried away*
- Passage shows power of example:  
Mt.5:13-16



## 14:

- Not straightforward – go straight forward, be on right road, *out of line, not in step with...*
  - Truth of the gospel is on the line.
  - Peter compromised truth; played into hands of Judaizers (2:3-5). Violates 1 Co.9:20-22

## 14:

I said to Peter before them all ...

- Note well:
  - Public sin requires public correction.
    - Peter gave no self-defense.
  - Peter's actions implied Gentile Christians were defective [they must live like Jews, or he would not associate with them].
  - Paul's boldness shows what he would do if he returned to Galatia.

## 15:

- “We” probably includes Peter, Paul, churches in Antioch, and Galatia
- Though they are Jews, the Law cannot save them (16a)
  - Jews are no better off than Gentiles
- Ac.15:10, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
- The wall of separation has fallen

## 16:

- Knowing [yet we know, ESV] that works of the law do not justify
  - Justify: to put right with, be found in right relation
- **NOT** by works of Law, **BUT** by faith in Christ
- **WE** believe in Christ...**that** we might be justified by faith in Christ
- **NOT** by works of the law

# 16:

## Different kinds of works –

- Of iniquity, Mt.7:23
- Of God, Jn.9:4
- Of flesh, Gal.5:19
- Of boasting, Ep.2:8-9
- Of faith, Ja.2:14-16 (Jn.6:27-29; 12:42-43)
- Of Law, Gal.2:16 [requires merit, perfection]

## 16:

Works of the law will not justify any flesh

- Context: primarily refers to Law of Moses
- If anyone could claim salvation by works of law, Paul could – Ph.3<sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless

17:

- If Judaizers are right . . .
  - We who do not keep the Law, sin ...
  - AND ... Jesus (taught us our doctrine) promoted sin
  - Is Gal.5:3-6 plain enough?

## 18:

If I build again those things which I destroyed ...  
I make myself a transgressor –

1. Paul tactfully applies to himself what Peter did
2. Peter's example would build up a distinction that has been destroyed – (that Jewish brothers are superior to Gentile brothers)
  - a. Peter himself tore down this idea, Ac.10.  
Now he rebuilds it by bad example
  - b. To build up again, rebuild – would make him a transgressor



19:

“I” and “Me” occur 9x in 19-21

1. Paul died to the law – ceased his relationship to it [refers to law as means of justification, 16]
2. Not referring to lessons of the law [4:21-31]
3. Not referring to all law [6:2]

20:

Paul's crucifixion – dead to the world, 5:24

1. *I no longer live.* Ro.6:2-6, person we used to be is crucified with Him
2. *But Christ lives in me.* We reproduce the life of Christ. Ep.4:22
3. *Life which I now live in the flesh...* a reference to our body
4. *I live by faith in the Son of God.* Jn.14:6.  
Ga.5:25
5. *Who loved me and gave Himself for me* (1:4)

21:

I do not set aside the grace of God

1. If righteousness comes through the law...

- perfect man needs no grace, therefore, no sacrifice of Christ

2. Then Christ died in vain... to no purpose

I. Details in Galatians 2:11-21

II. Deductions in Galatians 2:11-21

- A. In Corinth there was segregation according to wealth; in Antioch, Jewish Christians separated from Gentile brothers.
- B. Society exerts powerful pressures to sin though we know better. Our goal must be to do what we know.
- C. Leaders carry an extra weight of responsibility. When they fall...
- D. If Barnabas had been weak, there might have been no Paul to withstand him (Ac.9:27; 11:25...).

- E. Peace at any price is not acceptable.  
Gal.1:3; 5:22; 6:16
- F. Holy Spirit baptism guaranteed truth in preaching, but sound practice depended on holy, steadfast character. (Ac.15:7-11)
- G. It is not enough to believe the gospel (Peter did this, v.16); nor that we strive to preserve it. We must apply it. Peter failed in conduct

Peter failed in conduct. His history –

1. Lord, bid me come to You on the water...

-Lord, help me!

2. Though all men forsake You, I will not...  
though I should die with You

-I do not know the man!

3. You will never wash my feet...

-Not my feet only...also my hands / head

4. You went in to men uncircumcised and ate  
with them (Ac.11)

-Gal.2:11, flips...contradicts himself

## Peter proves - - -

1. Easier to preach a sermon than to live it
2. Peter the Jew lived like a Gentile, but his example pushed Gentiles to live like Jews
3. One bad example may tear down a lifetime of preaching
4. If eating with Gentiles is a sin, Jesus Who sent Peter there is guilty, too (Ac.11)



- E. Peace at any price is not acceptable. Gal.1:3; 5:22; 6:16
- F. Holy Spirit baptism guaranteed truth in preaching, but sound practice depended on holy, steadfast character. (Ac.15:7-11)
- G. It is not enough to believe the gospel (Peter did this, v.16); nor that we strive to preserve it. We must apply it. Peter failed in conduct
- H. Jd.4: certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ