

Called To Freedom: Galatians

Faith or Fear?

Read the following verses: Galatians 2:11-21

Examining the Text:

1. Paul opposed Peter to his face (2:11). What exactly was Paul's criticism of Peter? What was Peter's offense (according to Paul)?
2. Paul told Peter "you are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile" and then asked him "how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" In what way did Peter "live like a Gentile?" How did Peter "force the Gentiles to live like Jews" (Judaize)?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus told His disciples "if your brother offends you first tell him (privately), then (if there is no response) take a few with you. However, in Galatians 2 Paul did not do any of this; he simply rebuked Peter publicly before everyone. Then he wrote about it so all future generations could know Peter's mistake! Was Paul wrong? Was Paul simply trying to "put Peter down" to publicly disgrace him?
2. Immediately after recounting the Antioch incident, Paul talks about justification by faith and not works of law (Gal. 2:15-16). What does Peter and the Jewish believers eating (or not eating) with Gentile believers have to do with justification by faith and not works of law? What is the link?
3. Paul says, "If while endeavouring to be justified by faith, we are found to be sinners, is Christ a minister/servant of sin?" In what way was Peter or Paul "found to be sinners"? In what sense does the possibility of Christ apparently being "a minister/servant of sin" arise?

The Heart of the Matter:

1. According to Paul, Peter was affected by "fear of the circumcision party," instead of "living by faith in the Son of God" (2:20). How have you been affected by "fear of man"? When have you faced a conflict or choice between a course of action determined by the "fear of man" vs "faith in Christ"?