

Galatians Chapter 2

Verse 14

1. We discover that Paul had a public confrontation with Peter and rebuked him for his doctrinal deviation. Paul says that they "...walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel." This was a doctrinal issue, not a personality issue.
 - Paul rebuked Peter because Peter was the ring-leader of the group.
 - He rebuked him publicly because it was a public offence and it had affected the entire church. **1 Timothy 5:19-20**
2. In Paul's rebuke, he points out the hypocrisy that Peter was displaying.
 - Peter had arrived in Antioch and enjoyed wonderful fellowship with the Gentiles.
 - Peter had eaten with the Gentiles, without regarding the laws and ceremonies of the Jews relating to meats and drinks.
 - Peter was a Jew, yet he had lived with the Gentiles in their culture and according to their customs. He (as a Jew) had lived as a Gentile.
 - When the legalizers arrived from Jerusalem, Peter basically said, "I can't fellowship with you unless you convert to Judaism." He was insisting (by his example) that these Gentile Christians become as the Jews.
3. Paul pointed out the inconsistency of Peter.
4. Thank God that Paul had the boldness to stand up for the gospel of grace in Antioch. Had Paul not stood at this crucial moment, there could have been a breach created between Jews and Gentiles that would have destroyed the unity of the church, and impacted countless other churches.
 - Lesson learned: We don't help the cause of unity by backing down and remaining silent when we **should** speak up. Doctrinal heresy in the church must be dealt with, or the church will end up weak, anemic, and divided. **1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:9-13, 2:15, 3:10**
5. Peter evidently accepted this rebuke and recovered from it because the last person he mentions in his writings is "...our beloved brother Paul." **2 Peter 3:15**
 - One of the marks of a wise man is the acceptance of rebuke. **Proverbs 9:8-9**

Verse 15

1. The "we" is referring to Peter, Barnabas, and the other Jews who had withdrawn fellowship from the Gentiles. Paul was also a Jew.
2. Those who were Jews by nature (by birth), referred to the Gentiles as "sinners."
 - The Gentiles knew nothing of the true God or the Mosaic Law; therefore they lived very pagan, idolatrous, wicked lives.
3. Paul will show that Jews need Christ just as much as the Gentiles. They, too, are sinners and in need of justification. **Romans 3:9-10**

Verse 16

1. This verse makes it very clear that law-keeping and good works will not save you. The Jews may have considered themselves a cut above the Gentiles, but it was totally irrelevant in regards to justification.
2. We have **all** fallen short of God's righteous standard revealed in the law (**Romans 3:23**). Christ is the only One who kept that righteous standard in totality.
 - This is referred to by the phrase "...the faith of Jesus Christ."
 - This is a reference to His fidelity and worthiness to be believed in.
3. Three times the word "justified" is used in this verse. What does it mean to be justified before God?
 - It means that the righteousness of Christ has been credited to my account and my sin has been credited to Christ when He died on the cross.
4. Justification is the judicial act of God (**Romans 8:33**) that takes place the moment the believing sinner trusts Christ to save him.
5. Justification is not a process; it is the instantaneous act of God. This is why Paul teaches that it is not by the works of the law. If it were by our works, it **would** be a continual process.
6. We are not justified on the basis of our works, but on the basis of the "...faith of Christ."
 - "The faith of Christ" refers to the fact that he lived a sinless, holy life, died as a perfect sacrifice for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended, and was exalted to the right hand of the Father.
 - There is nothing we can **do** to be justified; Christ has done it all!
 - In order to be justified (declared righteous by God), we simply believe and trust in what Christ has done.
 - Divine righteousness has been manifested in Christ, and through faith, He gives us His righteousness. Through faith, Christ's righteousness is credited to our account. **Philippians 3:9**