

v. 11-13

Peter arrives in Antioch

- Antioch is in the region of Galatia.
- Paul is ministering there and Peter shows up.
- During his visit, everything was going great. He was eating and fellowshiping with the Galatian believers and even doing ministry there. That all changed when “certain men” showed up.
- These “certain men” were from the Apostle James.
- Peter withdraws from the Gentiles and joins the Jews again separating himself from them.
- I am not sure if these men expected that but it says that Peter did this because he feared the OT following Christians aka the Circumcision Party.
- Even Barnabas was caught up in it all and joined Peter and the Jews opposite the Gentiles.

v. 14-21

Confrontation

- Paul sees the hypocrisy of it all and is compelled to speak up.
- Remember, Paul was not making a habit of causing a stir for the sake of the Gospel but this was a very public infraction that swayed other people to sin therefore Paul made his rebuke to Peter very public.
- It seems that the entirety of verses 14-21 is a monologue from Paul to Peter.
- Paul publicly explains to Peter that just because they are Jews they are not justified by the law. Their justification came by faith in Christ alone therefore he was acting hypocritically.

Justification

- A legal term meaning: the action of showing something to be right or reasonable.
- A theological term meaning: The action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God.
- This is only made possible through the finished work of Christ.

- Peter, just like every other believer whether Jew or Gentile, was made righteous in the sight of God through faith in Christ alone.
- Peter had not gone back to the OT law. He was simply afraid of the people that did follow that law so he made it appear like he did in their presence. Paul calls him out for his hypocrisy.

Romans 2:12-28

- Jews are ones whose hearts have been circumcised. The outward sign of circumcision was not and is not what makes someone a Jew. The New Covenant brought with it the circumcision of hearts for Gentiles as well as Jews. We are now one family in the eyes of God. There is no more distinction between the two.

Small Group Questions

- 1) From what apostle did men come that caused Peter to act hypocritically?
 - James the brother of Jesus. This is interesting because James was a very prominent voice in the early church especially for believing Jews.
- 2) Does this mean that James was a Judaizer?
 - It does not! James wrote the book of James and he tells us there that salvation is by faith alone. It doesn't actually say that the men that came from James were pressuring Peter but Peter made the decision out of fear to join them and ignore the Gentiles.
- 3) What did Paul do to Peter?
 - He publicly confronted him since Peter had publicly sinned. He even caused Paul's close associate Barnabas to be led astray.
- 4) What does the term *justification* mean theologically?
 - The action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God.
- 5) How are we justified in the eyes of God?
 - By the finished work of Christ. Christ came and fulfilled the whole law perfectly and then it was crucified with Him on the cross. That perfect righteousness is what is imputed to

us. His work on the cross is vital but it's not the only work that is important and I think we tend to forget that.

6) Who are true Jews?

- Everyone whose hearts have been circumcised by the Holy Spirit.