

Gal. 2:11-14

I. I opposed Peter to his face because he was wrong (11)

In this section Paul demonstrates that it is not people that matter as much as the truth

When the most famous leader Peter fails

The truth judges Peter, Peter does not judge the truth

No human leader is above question

Not Peter vs. Paul, but truth over both Peter and Paul

A. I opposed Peter (11a-b)

1. When Cephas [Peter] came into Antioch (11a)

2. I opposed him to his face (11b)

Dealing personally with Peter

B. Because he was wrong (11c)

liable to be appropriately convicted of being in the wrong

II. Elaboration/Explanation of what happened (12-14)

A. Peter pulled back from the Gentiles (12-13)

1. Pos: What Peter used to do (12a-b)

a The time: Before certain people came from James (12a)

b The action: He ate with the Gentiles(12b)

2. Neg: What Peter did (12c-13)

a The cause: (12c-f)

1) The time: When they [the people] came [from James] (12c)

Probably with message from James

2) Peter feared the circumcision and pulled back from the Gentiles (12d-f)

a) Peter pulled back and separated himself [from the Gentiles] (12d-e)

(1) He pulled back (12d)

(2) He separated himself (12e)

b) The reason: fearing those from the circumcision (12f)

The circumcision group is not necessarily the same as those from James, probably not

Probably withdraws and separates to minimize the chance of persecution from the circumcision group

The James group asked Peter not to eat with Gentiles, so that word does not get back to Jerusalem and cause persecution to increase

b The effect: others followed in Peter's hypocrisy (13)

1) Cause: The remaining Jews joined with him in his hypocrisy (13a)

2) Effect: So that also Barnabas was led astray with their hypocrisy (13b)

B. But I publicly rebuked him (14)

1. I spoke to Peter in front of everyone (14a-c)

a Time: When I saw that Peter was not doing right (14a-b)

1) When I saw that: (14a)

2) What I saw: Peter was not doing in conformity with the truth of the Gospel (14b)

Not acting rightly, not in conformity

Cf. sobriety test, walk where appropriate to standard

Peter deviated from the Gospel to another standard

b I spoke to Cephas [Peter] in front of everyone (14c)

Private sins call for private rebuke

Public sin that deceives and stumbles others deserves public rebuke and public apology/retraction so that others are not led astray

There is a problem with sweeping things under the carpet

Bring into the light

2. What I said: How can you tell the Gentiles to do something you do not do (14d-f)

a Condition: If you (a Jew) live like a Gentile and not a Jew (14d-e)

1) Even though you are a Jew (14d)

2) You live like a Gentile and not like a Jew (14e)

Reminds Peter that he is not a slave to OT Law (and rightly so)

b Then how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? (14f)

Peter was not living what he believed

This example caused the wrong message, caused stumbling

Watch that our lives conform to the Gospel!

In many cases Paul was all for adapting cultural practices

In this case where cultures clashed, what to do?

In this case where culture practices confront the Gospel – reject culture

Be careful to be sensitive to culture

Be willing to adapt to culture to minimize unnecessary distance to Gospel

Be careful to be sensitive to culture

Be willing to be counter-cultural, to challenge culture with the Gospel