

Remember What You Know

I. Paul opposed Peter in the presence of the whole church at Antioch.

- A. What was Peter doing?
1. Prior to the coming of certain men from the church in Jerusalem, Peter used to eat with (socialize with) the Gentiles; but when they arrived in Antioch Peter *began* to [withdraw](#) and hold himself aloof. (2:12)
 2. The rest of the Jewish Christians in the church at Antioch [followed](#) Peter's leadership example. (2:13)
 3. Peter stood condemned not in the sense of losing his salvation, but in the sense of being guilty of [sin](#).
- B. Why was Peter doing it?
1. He [feared](#) (was intimidated by) the Jewish believers from Jerusalem. (2:12)
 2. He [forgot](#) what he knew. (As we'll see in Point II below)
- C. Why was it a problem?
1. The Jewish Christians were being hypocrites (2:13), for while professing and teaching that all Christians are one in Christ, they were denying this truth by their conduct.
 2. They were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, meaning that they were [out of line](#) with the gospel. (2:14)
Their actions implied that Jews and Gentiles are not accepted equally by God.

II. Peter was not living what he had learned directly from God.

- A. Remember Acts chapters 10 and 11?
- B. Peter initially resisted what he did not understand (10:14, 17), but he remained open to God's voice and leading (10:19-20).
Then Peter obeyed God, (10:23, 28, 11:17)
and his understanding grew as he listened to and obeyed God. (10:34-35)
- C. In Acts 10:45-47 (11:15) the Holy Spirit came directly upon the Gentile believers, just as He did on the Jewish believers in Acts 2.
- D. The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were initially [alarmed](#) that Peter had preached to, welcomed and fellowshiped with Gentiles (Acts 11:1-3) because they did not understand this new work of God among the Gentiles.
- E. But when Peter explained to them what God showed him (Acts 11:5-11), what God told him (Acts 11:12) what God did (Acts 11:13-16) and his decision to go God's way (11:17) then their dispute ended, their worship began, their unity was maintained and their new Gentile brothers and sisters in Christ were accepted. (11:17)

III. Paul thought the truth of the gospel was worth fighting for, so he argued:

- A. A Jewish man (Peter) who does not follow Jewish dietary rules should not require Gentiles to follow Jewish dietary rules. (2:14)
- B. We Jewish Christians know that a person is not made right with God by keeping the Law of Moses, but through faith in Christ Jesus. (2:16a)

- C. We Jewish Christians have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not justified by the works of the Law of Moses. (2:16b)
- D. No one, Jewish or Gentile, will be justified by keeping (living according to) the Law of Moses. (2:16c)
- E. The Gentile Christians are just as clean and holy to God as the Jewish Christians, such that living by the regulations of the Law of Moses has absolutely [nothing](#) to do with being acceptable to God.
- F. Therefore our fellowship with each other is based on who we are in Christ. Ethnicity (including former religion and prior beliefs), economic position or status, and gender are completely irrelevant when it comes to acceptance with God and acceptance (fellowship) in the Church. (Gal. 3:24-28)

IV. Why it still matters today:

- A. It still matters today because the good news is that Jesus has paid 100% of the price for our sins.
1. Through faith Jesus for our cleansing and forgiveness, He graciously reconciles us to God and restores us to God's design purpose.
 2. We are much more than cleaned and forgiven; we are reconciled to God and restored to His way in every area and relationship of life. That's our [position](#) in Christ.
 3. So now I can bring my whole life, all of it, into line with the gospel of grace. I can practically live the gospel of grace in all of my life for all of my life.
- B. It still matters today because *when* Christ's mission, vision, values and purpose shape your life, your vision, your values, your purpose, your relationships, your decisions, etc., *that's when* your culture, your customs, your ethnicity fade from relevance and so do the culture, customs and ethnicity of others fade from relevance.
1. The more your life lines up with the gospel of grace, the less [lesser](#) things matter.
 2. What's important to us as Christians is what we share in common with Him, not how we differ among ourselves.
- C. It still matters today because right doctrine not lived out rightly produces hypocrisy.
1. We want to practice God's Word consistently, allowing it to regulate all areas of our thought and conduct.
 2. Leadership must stay in line with God's Word because people follow their leaders.
- D. It still matters today because everyone is human, and can "get out of line" with God. We so often forget what we know. So be on your guard.
- E. It still matters today because truth is more important than peace and harmony; opposition to error is [imperative](#).
- F. It still matters today because you should ever remember the grace God has showered on you.
What does living out and enjoying that grace look like in your situation?

Message

Live in line with the gospel in every area of your life.