

# A Historic Battle for the Gospel

Paul Takes on The Big Dog for the Sake of the Gospel Galatians 2:11-16 Chris Mueller 9-25-2022

## Introduction:

**Galatians 2:11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12** For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. **13** The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. **14** But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? **15** "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; **16** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

## #1 Peter's subtle D\_\_\_\_\_ **11-13**

### 1<sup>st</sup> The C\_\_\_\_\_ between captains **11**

**11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> The C\_\_\_\_\_ of the compromise **12**

**12** For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof fearing the party of the circumcision.

**Acts 15:19** it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles

**John Macarthur** Like Peter, James at times had difficulty giving up his lifelong adherence to the Mosaic rituals and regulations, and he perhaps still had remnants of prejudice against Gentiles. But he would hardly have sent a delegation of heretics to Antioch to undermine the true gospel and cause the church there nothing but trouble. He would never have been the cause of discord and chaos where there already - Spirit-induced harmony and unity.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> The C\_\_\_\_\_ over the concession **13**

**13** The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

**Matthew 6:1** Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. **2** "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

**Acts 9:27**  
**Acts 15:37-40**

**Galatians 3:26** are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for they are all one in Christ Jesus.

## #2 Paul's sound D \_\_\_\_\_ 14-21

### 1<sup>st</sup> The C \_\_\_\_\_ over practice 14

14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> The C \_\_\_\_\_ with doctrinal truth 15-16

15 We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; 16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified

**RC Sproul** Justification is that act by which unjust sinners like you are made right in the sight of a just and holy God. The supreme need of an unjust person is righteousness. And it is this lack of righteousness that *is supplied by Christ* on behalf of the believing sinner. Justification by grace alone through faith alone means justification by the righteousness of merit of Christ alone, is never *by our goodness or good deeds*.

**Romans 7:7** ...Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

**Galatians 3:24** the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

#### TAKE HOME:

#1 Leaders, be \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Make-believers, be \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Evangelists, \_\_\_\_\_

#4 Learners, listen \_\_\_\_\_

#### Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why did Paul explain his confrontation of Peter to the Galatian Churches?
2. How do we know that the Judaizers actually lied about coming from James and the other apostles?
3. Why was Peter afraid of the party of the circumcision, which caused him to withdraw and remain aloof?
4. What is the big problem with Gentiles adopting Jewish practices?
5. How do we see hypocrisy in today's church, and how do you see hypocrisy in your own life?
6. Why does Paul mention justification in contrast to the works of the law three times in verse 16?
7. What does this event teach you about leadership, manifesting fruit, and sharing the gospel and God's Word?
8. What specific steps will you take this week to live out the truths of these verses?

