

Theme: Paul and the other Apostles were united in their understanding of the Gospel and supported one another in their call.

I. Intro – Paul: Renegade Apostle?

- A. Paul received Gospel/apostleship from Christ
- B. Paul was not “under” the other Apostles
- C. Was Paul in agreement with other Apostles?
- D. Were Paul/other Apostles having a running fight?

II. Galatians & Chronology of Paul’s Life

- A. Who were Galatians – North v. South (2 maps)
 - 1. Ethnic Galatians – northern (most of history)
 - 2. Provincial Galatians – south (many & me!)
 - a. Only place we know Paul went
 - b. Paul normally uses provincial terms
 - c. Nothing else to call them
 - d. Date – see below
- B. When was Galatians written – prior to Acts 15
 - 1. After two Jerusalem trips (1:18/A 9:26-27; 2:1-10/A 11:28-30)
 - 2. Other considerations
 - a. No Timothy (all but Titus; Ephesians) – from south; Acts 16

- b. Prominent mention of Barnabas (2:1, 9, 13) – Acts 13-14 & 16
- c. Strange actions of Barnabas & Peter – after Acts 15?!!!
- d. No mention of the Acts 15 decision or letter!

C. Not critical – unless ulterior motives!

- 1. Good people hold both sides of both issues
- 2. But some North/late have ulterior motives
- 3. DVD (Founding A Religion – From Picture of Peter to Elaine Pagels)
- 4. To undermine faith & gospel – like Judaizers!

III. The Key Issue: Apostolic Unity

- A. Paul claims unity with other Apostles
 - 1. Galatians 2:6-9: 1:8-9
 - 2. Eph 3:4-6 – all apostles receive mystery; Gospel
- B. Acts claims unity between apostles (Acts 15:5-11, 13-19)
- C. Others claim unity of faith (and Paul) - Jude 3, 17; 2 Pet 3:2, 15
- D. Apostolic fathers – quote apostles as Scripture; heretics deny some

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Church has single solid foundation (Eph 2:19-20)
 - 1. Apostles are foundation of church (Eph 2:19-20)
 - 2. No disunity between them! – Spirit protected

- B. The apostolic teaching is preserved in the Word
 - 1. We know what early church believed – from Word
 - 2. Other writings always rejected – heresy
 - 3. One single, apostolic foundation & church
- C. God's apostolic Word: how firm a foundation!

Paul and the Other Apostles

Galatians 1:13-2:10

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How Firm A Foundation

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. Galatians 1:18

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. Acts 9:26-27

¹ Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ² I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain. Galatians 2:1

²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. Ac 11:28-30

⁶ As for those who seemed to be important-- whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance-- those men added nothing to my message. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews. ⁸ For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹ James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. Galatians 2:6-9

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Gal 1:8-9

⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 3:4-6

⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." ⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:5-11

¹³ When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ¹⁶ "After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things" ¹⁸ that have been known for ages. ¹⁹ "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Acts 15:13-19

³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. Jude 3, 17

² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:2, 15-16

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20