

Theme: Paul had to rebuke Peter at Antioch because his actions were undercutting the heart of the Gospel of justification by faith alone.

I. Intro – The Antioch Incident

- A. A strange tale indeed!
- B. Yet it fits the progression to show Paul's freedom
- C. What went on here?
- D. Why did Paul get so upset with Peter?

II. The Antioch Incident: A Brief Overview

- A. Background: Galatians 2:1-10, Peter & Gentiles
 - 1. Agreement between pillars and Paul
 - 2. Peter had already eaten with Gentiles - Cornelius
- B. Incident: eat, James, withdraw, others, rebuke
 - 1. Peter eats w/ Gentiles, lives like them: v12, 14
 - 2. Men from James: v12 (persecution); too far? – Acts 15:24
 - 3. Peter withdraws & separates – fear circumcision(?)
 - 4. Other follow Peter in play acting – v13
 - 5. Paul rebukes Peter – public for public sin – v11, 14
- C. Outcome: unknown, but eventually union (Acts 15)
 - 1. Does not say response; known to Galatians?

- 2. Barnabas – responded prior to Acts 15
- 3. Peter & James – responded by Acts 15 council

III. The Antioch Incident: Why Paul Reacted

- A. A great theological principle was at stake: faith alone
 - 1. Not just a 'practical' issue (Peter's thought?)
 - 2. Not 'acting rightly toward truth of Gospel' v14
 - 3. The heart of the Gospel of faith alone at stake
- B. Paul's argument to Peter (& Galatians)
 - 1. Peter was a Jew (v14, 15)
 - 2. Peter lived like a Gentile (v12, 14)
 - 3. Peter forcing Gentiles to live like Jews (v14)
 - a. Separated – TT for avoiding ritually unclean (v12)
 - b. Gentiles – not really clean through faith – 2nd class
 - c. Gentiles – Judaize to really be part (v14)
 - 4. Peter knew this! (hypocrisy – v13; Acts 15:8-11)
 - a. Not false brothers as in 2:4; Galatia
 - b. Hypocrisy – play acting (v13)
 - c. Peter admitted this (Acts 15:8-11)
- C. What was at stake: justification by faith alone (15-16)

1. The works of the law had never worked! (v15-16)
 - a. Peter & Paul had Torah; not Gentile sinners (v15)
 - b. They knew it did not justify! (v16)
2. The solution: faith alone in Christ alone! (v16,21)
 - a. Peter & Paul had trusted in Christ (v16)
 - b. Faith in Christ and works of law – contradictory (v16, 21)
3. Justified by faith in Christ – not the law (Acts 13:38-39)
 - a. Paul's message – Christ saves, not law (Acts 13:38-39)
 - b. Peter's actions – Christ died for nothing! (v21)

IV. The Gospel: Justification by Faith Alone

- A. The human tendency to move to works
 1. Even Peter & Barnabas could slip into this!
 2. The church has always struggled with this
 3. Many today preach moralism – not Christ!
 4. Do we trust Christ – or ourselves?
- B. The Good News: justification by faith alone!
 1. Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone!
 2. Your salvation depends on Him – not you
 3. Rock of Ages – the true Gospel!

C. Communion: celebrating Christ's work for us

Paul, Peter, and Justification by Faith Alone

Galatians 2:11-16

January 2, 2005

Communion

Impromptu

We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. Acts 15:24

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 15:8-11

38 Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. Acts 13:38-39