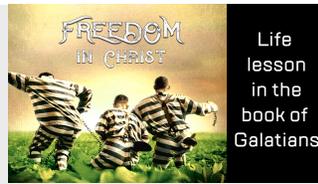


# Unity: Worth Fighting For

Galatians- Part 4 Galatians 2:11-21

Noah Largent 1/29/23



## 1. How Fear can Lead to Hypocrisy

Galatians 2:13 And the rest of the Jews also joined with him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray with them by their hypocrisy.

1. Because we Fear being ostracized, we can compromise our convictions because it may cost us valued relationships.
2. Fear of being laughed at, can cause us to agree with popular opinion even though we feel like we should speak up.
3. Fear of confrontation, can lead us to ignore or sweep under the rug issues that need to be addressed, so we go along to get along.

Whatever fear motivates Peter, the cost of his hypocrisy could be catastrophic to God's design for a diverse BUT unified Church! Paul points out that Peter's hypocrisy has additional consequences: it leads Barnabas to follow him

"We all have bent towards hypocrisy and, like, Peter, our acts of hypocrisy are often driven by fear... We need people in our lives with enough nerve to say to us, 'you can't do that!'"

-Author/Teacher Beth Moore *Now that Faith Has Come: A Study of Galatians* pg. 68

## 2. All Together Now

The issue here is NOT about Jewish Law - but using personal conviction to separate yourself from other believers in Christ. Today's issues are different but can have the same result!

You are a **vegan**? Great!

You **don't drink alcohol**? Great!

You're **dispensational in your theology**? Great!

But don't use your personal freedom/conviction as an excuse to exclude others or separate yourself from full participation in God's family!

## 2. All Together Now (continued)

One of the reasons for the explosion of the Church is that it took place in a patriarchal society, combined with a rigid class system that relegated many people, Christianity comes along and says, "Your life matters, regardless of who you are! You have a place and a part to play in the church and the world!" - Peter's split church model would compromise God's design!

Ephesians 4:3-5 Make every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith...

## 3. God's Loyalty: Peter

Despite the fact that Peter was privileged to be one of three in Jesus' inner circle, he is also guilty of serious failures!

Yet God is not done with Peter!

He'll go on to be the leader of the Church in Rome. He'll write 2 books in the New Testament and we have the Book of Mark because of him!

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, **I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**



### Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Beth Moore says, "We need people in our lives with enough nerve to say to us, 'you can't do that!'" Who plays that role in your life? When was the last time you said that to someone?
3. We forget that peer pressure is as much a part of adult life as it is for teenagers. Where is it felt in your life?

### Notes:

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