

Series: Free In Christ

Title: The Rebuke of Peter

Text: (Gal 2:11-14)

Review

A. Acceptance by the Apostles. vs 1 - 10

1. Message of Paul. vs 1 - 3
 - a. Jerusalem. vs 1, Acts 15
 - b. He goes by revealed will of God. vs 2.
 - 1.) God continues to lead Paul. (I Cor 10:31)
 - 2.) Gospel of GRACE presented.
 - 3.) Gospel presented to the leaders.
 - a.) He sought their cooperation
 - b.) He would not compromise (Is 28:10)
 - c. He uses Titus as an example. vs 3
 - 1.) He refused the circumcision of Titus.
 - 2.) He was not against circumcision as such.
 - 3.) Timothy's circumcision. (Acts 16:3)
2. Methods of the Judaizers. vs 4, 5
 - a. Imitators. vs 4
 - b. Imitation fails. vs 5
3. Message of Paul approved. vs 6 - 10
 - a. They added no heavy burden to Paul. vs 6
 - b. The same Gospel was preached. vs 7, 8
 - 1.) Divinely Distinctive fields of service. vs 7
 - 2.) Demonstrated in the blessing of God. vs 8
 - c. Partnership in preaching of the Gospel: vs 9
 - d. The duty of mutual help. vs 10
 - 1.) Paul was happy to do so. (Acts 11 :29-30)

B. Altercation with Peter. vs 11 - 14

1. Indignation of Paul. vs 11
 - a. Rebuke was open. Public reproof.

- 1.) He deserved blame.
 - 2.) He had done wrong.
 - 3.) He was by his conduct doing injury to the cause of the faith.
 - a.) He had a large following.
 - b.) His example carried weight.
- b. Rebuke was direct.
- 1.) Swift and definite action was necessary. The deceitful error had to be checked at once lest it spread its' infection.
 - 2.) Scripture mandates there is a duty to reprove those who err. (Eph 5:11) (II Tim 4:2)
 - a.) It is a painful duty, & one much neglected.
 - b.) It affords itself an important place in the Church today.
- c. Rebuke is accepted by Peter.
- 1.) A good man is willing to be reprovved when he has erred.
 - 2.) A man with true humility submits to correction.
 - 3.) A man such as Peter perhaps learned his lesson on this occasion.
2. Indecision of Peter. vs 12
- a. He accepted them. (Acts 10:34)
 - b. Why change?
 - c. We are prone to try to bend the Bible into agreement with human opinion.
 - d. Why live in fear when the way of faith is much more effective? (Prov 29:25)
 - 1.) He feared the effect of their opposition. This is a cowardly attitude.
 - 2.) He feared their disapproval. His fear will lead to his fall.

3.) He feared the report which would be made to those at Jerusalem.

3. Influence of Peter on his friends. vs 13
 - a. Harmony becomes discord and the unity of the Holy Spirit is being broken up.
 - b. Hypocrisy (dissimulation) runs amuck.
He pretended to believe what he did not believe, in order to please men.
4. Inconsistency of Peter's position. vs 14
 - a. Compromised the truth of the Gospel.
 - 1.) The end never justifies the means where and when a compromise is involved.
 - 2.) The compromise with error may be more dangerous than flat open denial of the truth.
 - b. Circumstances had prompted Peter to compromise.
 - 1.) His conduct was a threat to the liberty of the Gospel.
 - 2.) His fault was not that he taught error of doctrine, but that he sinned in conduct.
 - a.) A man may always teach the truth, and yet be far from perfection in practice.
 - b.) A man cannot compromise when a fundamental of the faith is involved and salvation is a fundamental doctrine first, last, and all the time.

May God help us never to compromise on this issue in our day!