

Galatians 2:11-16  
December 10, 2023

## **Peter's Mistake and Paul's Response**

1. What was Peter's primary mistake?  
Galatians 2:12  
Proverbs 29:25  
Galatians 1:10
  
2. What were the results?
  - a. He severed fellowship with the Gentile believers.  
Galatians 2:12
  - b. He became a hypocrite.  
Galatians 2:13  
\*Acts 10 and 11\*
  - c. He fractured the church.  
Galatians 2:13
  - d. He compromised the truth of the Gospel.  
Galatians 2:14
    - i. The Gospel Unites  
Galatians 3:27,28
    - ii. The Holy Spirit sanctifies  
Galatians 3:1-3
  - e. He empowered the Judaizers
  
3. What was Paul's response?
  - a. He confronted Peter's hypocrisy.  
Galatians 2:14
  - b. He made the nature of Peter's compromise clear.  
Galatians 2:15,16
  - c. He rebuked him publicly  
Galatians 2:14  
I Timothy 5:20

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Paul uses church history to do 2 things in refuting the false teachers:

1. Peter submitted to the rebuking of Paul.
2. Paul's rebuking specifically had to do with the matter of justification and making it clear to all that justification comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Paul continues to share church history in order to show that he is not "below" the pillars of the Jerusalem church. He brings up the very public rebuke that he made of Peter. Peter, understanding that he had been relieved of the keeping of the ceremonial laws, had begun to eat "prohibited" meat with the Gentiles. However, when Jews from the Jerusalem church came to visit, he removed himself from fellowship with the Gentiles and joined with the Jews in keeping this ceremonial law. Paul would not stand for this, as it gave occasion for many to think that the law was necessary for salvation and righteousness. Peter had a great impact on the Jews and Gentiles he was around, causing even Barnabas to remove himself from the assembly of the Gentiles. This creating division and raised questions about the nature of justification.

Peter's action doesn't bring unity. This is not a matter of dealing with the weaker brother on matters of conscience. Why? Adherence to the law was being taught broadly by the Judaizers. Therefore, to move away from the freedom that we have in Christ, back to the legalistic ideas of the law as to give credence to the idea that faith alone in Jesus is not enough for salvation; it must be accompanied by works.

\*\*\*The Gospel Unites\*\*\*

Peter's mistake: He made choices that were driven by fear.

1. He separated himself from the Gentile believers.
  - a. God declared this practice to be abolished through a dream He gave to Peter and Peter's subsequent encounter with Cornelius.
2. He turned back to Jewish customs and the law of kosher foods.
  - a. His practice affirmed those who declared that the law was necessary for salvation.
3. His actions emboldened and encouraged other Jews to do the same.
  - a. He was sowing seeds of division.
4. His actions showed that if Gentiles were going to have fellowship with Jewish Christians, they had to become Jewish in custom.

Worthy of note: Antioch was the "testing ground" of Gentile and Jewish believers being together. It was the first church recorded in Scripture that is composed of many Gentiles. For Peter to defect from the Gentiles here in such an open way, was tantamount to rejecting them as believers. They were not "good enough" for the Jewish followers of Christ. While he certainly did not believe this, the fear that he experienced made him act in a way that would make one think he affirmed this idea.