**The Wrong Compromise**

**Galatians 2:11-16**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
  + **The Divine Origin of the Gospel (vv. 11-12)**
  + **Paul’s Radical Transformation (vv. 13-17)**
  + **Independent Yet Unified (vv. 18-24)**
  + **Affirmation from the Apostles (2:1-10)**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 2:11-16**
* **Read (Galatians 1:10)**
* **Peter is mentioned in the previous passage we looked at last week (Galatians 2:7)**
* **Peter and Barnabas are the subjects in today’s message. If you know Peter, he has a way of either putting his foot in his mouth and/or He is a people pleaser. As we explore today’s passage, we see the people’s pleaser side of Peter raise its ugly head. Now Barnabas on the other hand had traveled with Paul in preaching the gospel to Gentile believers. But as we will see today, we need to be careful that we do not compromise the Gospel so we can please others.**

1. **The Confrontation (vv. 11-13)**
   1. **Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-63, John 18:15-18; 25-27**
   2. **The situation behind this passage is likely that the men who came from James (from the Jerusalem Church) encouraged Jewish Christians to eat separately and follow kosher dietary laws. Peter decided to go along with this, perhaps not realizing his example would make the Gentile Christians feel like second-class Christians.**
   3. **Although allowed by Scripture, eating with the Gentiles would have broken Jewish dietary traditions. The Circumcision party required keeping the Mosaic covenant law regarding circumcision, food, and special days. (Romans 14)**
   4. **Paul Opposes Peter Publicly: Peter’s withdrawal from Gentile believers was not just personal-it distorted the gospel.**
   5. **The Power of Influence: Even Barnabas was led astray. Hypocrisy spreads when leaders compromise the truth.**
   6. **Application Are we living consistently with the Gospel, even when it is uncomfortable?**
2. **The Correction (v. 14)**
   1. **Walking in Line with the Gospel: Paul challenges Peter’s behavior, not his theology because actions must match belief. (James 1:14-26)**
   2. **Peter was guilty of hypocrisy (v. 13). He had not been observing food laws previously. Now he was requiring Gentile Christians to observe Jewish food laws in order to eat with him.**
   3. **Gospel Integrity over Social Pressure: The Gospel unites across cultural and ethnic lines. (Galatians 1:10, Romans 2:29)**
   4. **Application: Do we let fear of others shape our witness?**
3. **The Core of the Gospel (vv. 15-16)**
   1. **Justification by Faith, Not Works: Paul reaffirms that no one is justified by observing the law but only through faith in Jesus Christ.**
   2. **Some Translations used the term: “Justified” means “counted righteous” or “declared righteous by God. If people obeyed all of God’s perfect moral standards, they could be justified by their own merits. But Paul says that this is impossible for anyone to do (Romans 1-2). This Justification is the result of saving faith and not by works of the law. No human effort or merit can be added to faith as a basis for justification.**
   3. **A Universal Truth: This applies to Jews and Gentiles alike-salvation is by grace through faith. (Romans 15:9-12)**
   4. **Application: Are we trusting in Christ alone, or do we add to the Gospel.**

**Conclusion/Application**

* **We cannot compromise the Gospel because of Social Pressure.**
* **Instead, we need to define, to defend and to declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** 
  + **Define It: Centers on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the Good News of Jesus Christ dying and raising to save us from our sins in order to reconcile sinful man to the Holy God.**
  + **Defend It: 1 Peter 3:15**
  + **Declare It: Matthew 28:18-20**
* **We must understand the Core of the Gospel is Jesus and his grace. You cannot do nothing to earn it, but your faith should produce works that helps further the Kingdom of God.**
* **Jesus + Nothing = Everything**