

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = Salvation?

April 2012

## Lesson #5 - Galatians – *FREEDOM IN CHRIST: TOUGH LOVE*

### INTRODUCTION

If a colleague of yours was doing something wrong, how would you confront him or her?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 2:11-14

*Note: In Acts 11:1-8 we see how God dramatically led Peter to break the Jewish custom by fellowshiping and eating with the Gentiles. “What we believe determines how we behave. Because Peter and Barnabas were confused about spiritual truth, they were unable to walk a straight line. The “truth of the Gospel” is not only something for us to defend (v. 5), but it is also something for us to practice (v. 14).”<sup>1</sup> “The pressure must have been intense because even Barnabas, who was from Cyprus—a Gentile center—succumbed.”<sup>2</sup>*

1. What was Peter (*the church leader*) doing with the Gentiles that changed when he was around Jews?
2. What was the worst thing that the Judaizers could have done to Peter?
3. Why did Paul rebuke him *publicly*? (v. 11) 1 Tim 5:20 How did this prove Paul’s authority?
4. Why were the Jews restricted from fellowshiping with the Gentiles? Lev 18:3-5
5. Why had God changed it?
6. What was Paul’s basis for confronting him? Proverbs 29:25
7. If Paul hadn’t spoken up, what might have happened among Hebrew and Gentile Christians?
8. What hypocritical practices and situational ethics have you seen among Christians? Mt 6:2
9. Jesus often opposed the religious leaders. How can one know if they are sinning? Lk 15:2
10. What is the value of accountability among Christians?
11. What difference does it make if “your walk matches your talk?” 1 Pet 3:15-18
12. Why is it easier for Christians to live by rules and traditions rather than by faith?

### APPLICATION

- What double standards might you be communicating?
- Who do you need to lovingly confront about their Christian walk? Pr. 27:6

*Peter probably thought that by staying away from the Gentiles, he was promoting harmony—he did not want to offend James and the Jewish Christians. James had a very prominent position and presided over the Jerusalem council (Acts 15). But Paul charged that Peter’s action violated the gospel. By joining the Judaizers, Peter implicitly was supporting their claim that Christ was not sufficient for salvation. Compromise is an important element in getting along with others, but we should never compromise the truth of God’s Word. If we feel we have to change our Christian beliefs to match those of our companions, we are on dangerous ground.*

Life Application Notes

*The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.*

Pr. 29:25 The Message

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (520). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> Anders, M. (1999). *Vol. 8: Galatians-Colossians*. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (23). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.