

Read Galatians 2:11-21. Here the apostle Paul recounts a moment that must have been painful, yet necessary - a public confrontation with the apostle Peter in Antioch. After affirming earlier in his letter that the apostles were united in the gospel, Paul now shows that unity must be protected not only in doctrine but in practice. When Peter withdrew from eating with Gentile believers out of fear, his actions sent a dangerous message: that some Christians were less acceptable than others. Paul recognized that this was not a small social misstep, but a threat to the very truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ that proclaims equal standing for all.

Peter knew better. He had seen God welcome Gentiles firsthand (*Acts 10-11*), yet fear led him into inconsistency. Worse still, his influence drew others, like Barnabas, into the same hypocrisy. Such behavior fractures the fellowship God intends for His Church. In the Lord's Church, all find their place of belonging. There is no second-class citizen in the Kingdom of God. While we may naturally gravitate toward certain personalities, we must guard against allowing preference to become partiality. When we withdraw, exclude, or subtly signal that some "don't quite fit," we echo the very error Paul confronted.

Paul's boldness teaches us that preserving unity sometimes requires loving confrontation. His rebuke was not about winning an argument, but about defending the truth that justification comes through faith in Christ alone, not by cultural conformity or human standards. When we truly grasp that our standing before God is entirely by grace, it reshapes how we see one another. We begin to value each brother and sister as equally redeemed, equally loved, and equally welcomed at the table.

So we must be on guard. Hypocrisy is subtle, and it is often rooted in fear - fear of opinion, fear of discomfort, fear of difference. But God calls His people to something higher: a unity that reflects the power of the gospel. In a world that divides, the Church should stand as a place where differences are not erased, but harmonized in Christ. Let us strive to be a people who not only preach grace, but live it! A people who actively fellowship, encourage, and support every member of the body, demonstrating that in Christ, we truly belong to one another.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: In what ways might I, like Peter, be allowing fear or preference to shape how I treat certain brothers or sisters in the church? How can I be intentional in building deeper fellowship with those I may not naturally "click" with, reflecting the unity of the gospel? What practical steps can I take this week to ensure that others in my church family feel fully welcomed, valued, and included?

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### Weekly Memory Verse:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

### Weekly Affirmation:

**CHRIST LIVES  
IN ME!**

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### APRIL 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Galatians
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Watch the Bible Project video on Galatians
- Invite at least one person to Sunday assembly.  
(available on the website).