

Introduction: Thoughts on Hypocrisy

The term hypocrisy carries the idea of wearing a mask or playing a part. It is creating a public impression that is at odds with one's real purposes or motivations (i.e. *play-acting*, *pretense*, *outward show*). Perhaps we think of scheming politicians or two-timing faith leaders. But hypocrisy can also refer to something far more subtle. Sometimes we know what is true, believe what is true, and even confess what is true, yet we alter our behavior because we fear the reactions of those around us. In an effort to gain approval or avoid criticism, our conduct can begin to communicate a message that contradicts our convictions.

Main Point: If we are to live in accordance with the truth of the Gospel, we must be willing at times to confront hypocrisy in _____ as well as _____.

Galatians 2:11-14

• Paul briefly introduces a time when he was forced to confront the actions of Peter. (v. 11)

(1) _____ was an important city in the life of the early church.

- During the 1st c. AD it was the 3rd largest city in the Roman empire with a population of over 500,000. The Jews and gentiles within the city got along until 40 AD and the reign of Caligula. After this, the Jews sought to assert their ethnicity over and against Greco-Roman cultural influences.

(2) At some point between Paul's visit to Jerusalem for famine relief (Acts 11:27-30) and his return to Antioch with Barnabas (Acts 12:25), Peter had come to the city (possibly Acts 12:17).

“I opposed him to his face”

“because he stood condemned” – καταγινώσκω (kataginōskō) – To be condemned or convicted. The verb is in the perfect tense, indicating an existing and ongoing state.

Passive? → “having been condemned” by _____

Middle? → “having condemned” _____ by his actions

Key Point: We demonstrate our love for the Lord and others when we are willing to be _____ over serious matters.

• Paul then explains the specific details of what occurred in Antioch between himself and Peter. (vv. 12-14)

(1) Peter was sharing _____ fellowship with gentiles prior to the arrival of men from Jerusalem.

“he was eating with the gentiles”

“certain men came from James”

- These men are not to be equated with the “_____ brothers” that infiltrated the private meeting in Jerusalem Paul had previously discussed. These men had been sent by James for some particular purpose.

“The Jerusalem church had recognized that God set him apart for missionary work among Jews, and here he was fraternizing with Gentiles over meals which would cause many of those in his target audience to raise questions about Jewishness. From the point of view...of the Jerusalem church, Peter was being a bad witness and acting in conflict with the character of his calling.”
- Ben Witherington

(2) Peter's response to the arrival of these men was to _____ from fellowship with the Gentile believers.

“he drew back” - ὑποστέλλω (hypostellō)

“separated himself” – ἀφορίζω (aphorizō)

- These terms serve as an _____ condemnation of the actions of Peter who had been *set apart* (aphorizō) by Jesus Christ *to serve as an apostle* (apostellō) to proclaim the Gospel.

“fearing the circumcision party” – lit. “the ones of the circumcision”

- Probably not the men from James, but others within the Jerusalem church who were concerned with how Peter’s conduct would be viewed by other Jews.

Historical Situation: The Rise of the _____

“...when people from James arrived...they brought news of danger from the Zealots and an emphasis on Gentile Law observance in order to mitigate that danger. Peter, fearing for the safety of the Jerusalem church, decided to withdraw from Gentiles in order to maintain an outward semblance of Jewish piety, something he likely deemed appropriate in light of his role as an apostle to the circumcision. - Michael Burer

- (3) Peter’s actions impacted those of the other _____ in Antioch.

“the other Jews acted hypocritically”

“even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy”

‘Hypocrisy’ in the Jewish Mind

- The Zealots of the day were inspired by the Maccabean Revolt (2nd c. BC)
- One of their heroes, Eleazar, had refused to “act hypocritically” by pretending to abandon Jewish dietary requirements and to eat pork before Antiochus IV.
- He was therefore tortured to death because he refused to do that which would lead astray other faithful “children of Abraham.”

“Peter would be a hypocrite not for maintaining fidelity to Jewish food laws as Eleazar had done but for rejecting what God had so clearly revealed to him about the inclusion of the Gentiles.” – Michael Burer

- (4) When Paul arrived, he saw the _____ of the situation.

“I saw their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel”

- (5) He found it necessary to _____ confront Peter in front of the church.

“I said to Cephas in front of them all”

“how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

“In attempting to be considerate of the Jerusalem church and its existence under zealot-nationalistic pressures...Cephas had actually, even though inadvertently, destroyed the integrity of Gentile Christians. Instead of treating them as true believers in Jesus and full members of the Christian church, his action would have [necessitated] their becoming converts to Judaism.”
- Richard Longenecker

Key Point: We must resist the pressure to compromise the _____ of the Gospel even for the perceived benefit of ministering to unbelievers.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

- The Galatians should not yield to the demands of the Judaizers in their midst but should confront them even as Paul himself had done with Peter.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Confronting hypocrisy should begin with allowing the Holy Spirit to _____ our own hearts.
2. When there is a necessity to lovingly confront, we do well to follow the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-18.
 - Confront _____ (Matt. 18:15)
 - Confront _____ along with others (Matt. 18:16)
 - Confront under the _____ of the church leadership (Matt. 18:17)

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