

Serious Ramifications

Galatians 2: 14-21

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Impulsive buying and buyer's remorse
- Peter's personality—very impulsive
 - He acts, and then he thinks—Luke 5:10-11
 - He speaks, and then he thinks—Matthew 16
- Peter's withdrawal from Gentile believer in Antioch another case of "acting before thinking"?
- Paul confronts Peter by stating the serious ramifications of his act.

Serious Ramifications of Peter's Actions

A. The Question of Justification: How is a man declared to be right with God? By works of the law or by faith? 2:14-16

1. Peter knew the "gospel truth" that a person is justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
2. Peter has experienced God's grace in saving him
3. Salvation has always been by God's grace through faith

B. The Question concerning Culpability: Is Jesus Christ a minister of sin? 2:17-18

1. Jews, like Peter, living like "sinner" Gentiles.
 - a. Condemned by the Judaizers as "sinning"
 - b. But who told Peter it was OK to eat with Gentiles?—Jesus
 - c. So, does that mean Jesus is responsible for Peter's sin?
2. Paul's initial emotional response: "*Certainly not!*"
3. Real sin: "Building again what God has torn down"—2:18
 - a. On the cross, Jesus Christ abolished the wall of the law erected between Jews and Gentiles—Ephesians 2:11-18
 - b. By reverting back, Peter is erecting what God tore down, thus working against God.

C. The Clarification concerning Christian Living: By the Law or by Faith? Galatians 2:19-20

1. We are "dead" to the Law.—Romans 7:1-4, 6
 - a. What does it mean to be "dead to the law"?
 - b. How did we die to the law "*through the law*"?—Gal. 4:4-5
2. We are "alive" to God. How? Galatians 2:20
 - a. "I" died with Christ—Romans 6:4-11; Matt. 16:24-25
 - b. "I" died but Christ lives in and through me!—Eph. 4:24
 - c. New Christ-like life is lived by faith, not by the law!

D. Final, Summary Statement: If salvation is not by grace but by keeping the law, then Christ death is meaningless! Galatians 2:21