

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Galatians – week 4

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had a friend or friends sitting down and enjoying a meal with you, and then suddenly stand up and leave you all alone?
2. According to v.12; who did Peter eat with? (**Gentiles**).
3. According to v.12; who were the group that came from James in Jerusalem to Peter and Barnabas? (**The circumcision party**).
4. According to v.12, why did Peter draw back and separated himself from the gentiles? (**He feared the circumcision party**).

 Let's go deeper

5. How did Paul address Peter? (**See v.11; I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned**).
6. How would you define justification according to v.20? (**God's work for you. Jesus suffered, died, buried, rose again and ascended for us**).
7. How would you define regeneration according to v.20? (**God's work in us. Holy Spirit gives us new heart, nature, desires and power**).
8. How would you define sanctification according to v.20? (**God's work through us. Our old status, identity, lifestyle was crucified with Christ**).

 Let's apply this

9. The gospel of Jesus makes us free from dietary laws:

Leviticus 11 lists the dietary restrictions God gave to the nation of Israel. The purpose of the food laws was to make the Israelites distinct from all other nations. After this purpose had ended, Jesus declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19). God gave the apostle Peter a vision in which He declared that formerly unclean animals could be eaten (Acts 10:15). When Jesus died on the cross, He fulfilled the Old Testament law.

- **Thank Jesus for the freedom we have in Him.**

SUMMARY:

- **The book of Galatians – No Other Gospel**

Read: Galatians 2:11 – 21

The conflict in Antioch develops in seven stages:

First, Cephas (Peter) comes to Antioch and begins to eat with Christian Gentiles (v.11a, 12b). Second, certain men from James came to Antioch (v.12a). Third, Peter becomes afraid of this group (last part of v.12). Fourth, his fear causes him to draw back and separate himself from the Gentile Christians (v.12c). Fifth, the rest of the Jews and even Barnabas, Paul's partner, withdrew and joined the hypocrisy (v.13). Sixth, therefore, Peter stood condemned, that is, guilty of wrong (v.11). Seventh, therefore, Paul rebukes him to his face (v.11).

v.12 says, "Before certain men came from James, Cephas ate with the Gentiles." Or, as Paul puts it in v.14, though Cephas was a Jew, he was living like a Gentile. Peter was enjoying the freedom of the gospel. Not only was he not requiring that Gentile believers become Jews and get circumcised and keep the ceremonial laws, but he realized even as a Jew he was free in Christ to become, as it were, a Gentile.

v.13 says that Peter and Barnabas and the others were wrong when they withdrew from eating with the Gentile Christians. They were saying one thing with their actions and believing another in their heart. They sought to avoid conflict from the circumcision party at the expense of their principles. They feared man.

What can we learn from this:

Believe the gospel of Christ and do not fear what men can do to you. Believe the gospel of Christ and do not play the hypocrite. There is great security and comfort in the gospel. Believe the gospel of Christ and do not nullify the grace of God.

v.17 – 21; God's Work for You (Justification)

Jesus took our place and lived a sinless life. Jesus took our place and paid our debt of death for sin on the cross. Jesus went before us and continues to work for us by preparing a home for us, never leaving or forsaking us and ruling over everything.

God's Work in You (Regeneration)

God the Holy Spirit has brought the life of Christ to live in us if we are a believer. Through the Spirit, we are given a new heart, new nature, new desires for God and new power to live like Jesus Christ.

Gods Work through You (Sanctification)

Because our old status, identity and lifestyle were crucified on the cross with Christ, there is now a brand-new life for us to live. That life is not our life but the life of Jesus Christ through us as a means of His grace unleashed on the world so that His love heals, transforms, makes new and restores.