

# THE CALL TO RESPOND...WHEN OTHERS DRIFT

## GALATIANS 2:11-21

**Galatians 2:11-21 (KJV)**

*<sup>2:11</sup> But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.*

*<sup>12</sup> For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*

*<sup>14</sup> But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?*

*<sup>15</sup> We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,*

*<sup>16</sup> Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

*<sup>17</sup> But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

*<sup>18</sup> For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*

*<sup>19</sup> For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*

*<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

*<sup>21</sup> I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

How would you respond to a friend of yours, that you loved deeply, but you saw in their life a serious drifting away from the Word of God? What would you do? Would you remain silent and wish that someone would enter their lives and tell them better or would you be willing to confront them in love with the truth. Sadly, there are so many today, who claim to be Christians, yet watch their family and friends who are also saved believe in error, walk in error and never say a word to them to the glory of God. When we get to this particular section of Galatians, the Father reminds us that there may well be those times in our lives, when He calls us to involve our lives with others...who are believing error, but are you willing? Are you available? Would you go to a friend if God sent you?

**1. REMINDER...THERE MAY WELL COME A TIME WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO CONFRONT FRIENDS WHO ARE DRIFTING.** As God began moving mightily among the Gentiles, bringing them to faith in Christ, it was the desire of Peter to interact with them, and to hear about their faith, and fellowship with them. Peter was enjoying the fellowship of the Gentile Christians...then something suddenly happened that alarmed the very heart of Paul. When Jewish friends showed up, Peter immediately removed himself from eating with the Gentiles, for fear of what the Jews might say.

These Jews were known as Judiazers. They believed in the gospel of Christ, but they also believed that other things were needed for salvation, namely keeping the law, following rites and rituals, circumcision and more. No doubt the Jews may well have jumped on Peter for eating with the Gentiles and when that happened he removed himself from their fellowship. Paul made it abundantly clear that he had no option but to confront him. Why? Because Peter was in the wrong. As Peter went, so would other believers go. The result would be division, and a complete misunderstanding in God's plan of salvation. The call of God to Paul was to "confront", and to "oppose" Peter. No doubt in Peter's better moments he knew better, but he was being unduly influenced by those who believed in Jesus plus rituals for salvation. Just as God called Paul to confront Peter, there may well come a time in your life when you see a fellow Christian is walking contrary to Scripture. While we do have a choice whether we will or will not confront, there will be accountability if we have been called to do so and fail.

2. **REMINDER...NO BELIEVER HAS A RIGHT TO HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD.** In the life of Paul, he saw something most dreadful from the life of Peter, namely a double standard. Fellowship with the Gentiles and then fellowshiping with the Jews and removing himself from the Gentiles. He ate with Gentiles until the Jews arrived, proving him to be hypocritical. Peter said one thing, but in life, lived out another thing. Under enough pressure, Peter was willing to remove himself from certain Christians for the sake of pressure.

The call of God to “every Christian” is never under any circumstance to have a double standard. There is absolutely no way to live a life pleasing to the Father, honoring him, when we are willing to fellowship with certain people one day, and then under pressure, remove ourselves from them on another day. Though Peter was a preacher of God, he was practicing hypocrisy. It is totally possible to be saved, to be a part of the church family for years and practice hypocrisy. Any time we declare one thing and practice another, **THAT IS HYPOCRISY.** Peter was glad to fellowship with the Gentiles, but not when the Jewish friends were around. How heartbreaking that is to the Father. Yet, a true servant of God will if necessary stand toe to toe with his brother in love when they are in the wrong. Are you bold enough to confront a friend who is living a life of hypocrisy, if the Father sends you? Are you willing to obey or simply sit in silence as others abuse the grace of God?

3. **REMINDER...WE ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST “PLUS NOTHING”.** Sadly, if many believers were asked what made them right with God, some would say, “faith in Christ plus going to church” or “faith in Christ plus doing your best” or “faith in Christ and prayer or Bible study”. The sobering and wonderful truth of Scripture is this...we are made right with God by faith in Christ plus absolutely nothing. Though Paul was a Jew and a strict Jew at that, he made it abundantly clear that he was accepted before God, not by his Jewish heritage, the keeping of the law. There is absolutely no way to be right with God by the “keeping of the law” for no one can keep the law. But all are made right with God only through the very person and work of Jesus Christ **PLUS NOTHING.** It may sound nice to say that a person is made right with God by keeping the law, but the sobering truth is, no one is perfect enough to keep the law flawlessly, and perfectly. There is but **ONE** way to be right with the God of all creation, and that is through the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul’s words are clear, “Knowing that a man is not justified (made righteous) by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...” (Gal. 2:16). If a person is made right by the law, then the shed blood of Christ makes absolutely no sense. If a person is made right by following rules, regulations, God Almighty was extremely unwise in giving Jesus...but the fact is, we are not made right by rules but **ONLY BY THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS.** Since God Almighty is the One that created us, He alone declares how a person can come before Him...and it is only through Christ. “...Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight...” (Rom. 3:19)

4. **REMEMBER...NO BELIEVER IS MISLED BY CHRIST.** Some were saying in the days of Paul, “What if we believe in Christ, and then are wrong about being saved...what if rules and regulations are required.” In the days of Paul, some were saying that believing in Christ was not enough, because of the overwhelming power of the law. Yet, in truth, the law was designed by God to reveal to us that we are “all sinners”, that no one is powerful enough to keep the laws, and that we need an “internal change” by the power of God. This is the very work of Christ. Paul declared, “God forbid...that people think Christ would mislead them.” For Christ is the very begotten of the Father...full of grace and truth, and Jesus is God Himself, and cannot lie. To attempt to keep the laws, rules and regulations leads to bondage...and the end result is a lack of salvation.