

## TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

12-18 May 2019 | Galatians 2:11-21

**The Message.** We may act hypocritically as a Christian because we want to live up to people's expectation – not God's. By doing this, we simultaneously give a push for others to act in the same way. To avoid this, we have to embrace the grace of God without being licentious; to be gospel-conscious without being law-conscious.

**Context.** Peter acted hypocritically as he feared the circumcision party and withdrew himself from eating with the Gentiles. Paul rebuked Peter as this act is not in step with the gospel. It sends a message that uncircumcised Gentiles are not holy even if they already have faith in Jesus Christ. Paul reaffirms that circumcision or the works of the flesh do not justify people – faith in and grace of Jesus Christ do.

### Observation

*Read 2:11-14.*

1. Why does Paul rebuke Peter (2:11-14)?
2. When does this happen (2:1)?
3. Why did Peter start eating with the Gentiles in the first place (cf. Acts 10)?

### Meaning

4. What is the significance of Paul saying that Peter's conduct "was not in step with the truth of the gospel" (2:14) as opposed to "you have broken the law"?

*Read 2:15-21.*

5. What does Paul mean when he says "But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners is Christ then a servant of sin?" (2:17)?
6. What does Paul mean when he says "For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor" (2:18)?
7. What does it mean to die to the law and to live to God (2:19)?

## **Application**

### Fallen Condition Focus

8. How we may have been acting differently than who we really are when we are in a Christian community? Why would we act that way?
9. In what ways we may have fostered hypocritical culture in Christian community?
10. Learning from Paul, how should we rebuke our brothers/sisters when they sin?
11. What do the answers to questions 2 and 3 tell us about our propensity to sin?

### Christ-centeredness

12. What does it mean that “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (2:20)?

## **Insight**

Interestingly, Paul circumcised Timothy before bringing him to his mission trip (Acts 16). Why did Paul rebuke Peter for fearing circumcision party, but Paul himself circumcised Timothy? In Galatians, the issue is doctrinal. If Paul did not respond, people would believe circumcision is essential to salvation and uncircumcised Gentiles are not saved. In Acts, the issue is contextualization of the gospel. If Paul did not do so, he would face issues in interacting with and sharing the gospel to the unbelieving Jews. Read John Piper’s article “Why Was Timothy Circumcised?” [here](#). How does this affect the way we interact with and evangelize to non-believers?

## **Resources**

- Keller, Timothy. *Gospel Matters: The Good Book Guide to Galatians*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.
- Matak, Dragutin. “Another Look at the Antioch Incident (Gal 2:11-14)”. *KAIROS Evangelical Journal of Theological VI No. 1* (2012): 49-59.
- Piper, John. “Why Was Timothy Circumcised?”. *Desiring God*. Online: [www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-was-timothy-circumcised](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-was-timothy-circumcised) (7 May 2019).
- Stott, John. *Reading Galatians with John Stott: 9 Weeks for Individuals or Groups*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2017.