

Even Barnabas [Gal. 2:11-21]

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1. **Galatians 2:11-13** - we see an example of Peter and the Jews and **even Barnabas** "playing the hypocrite"
2. Galatians 2:14-21 – Paul’s public rebuke of Peter
3. Consider the background to these events and what we should learn from them.

Discussion:

I. BACKGROUND

- A. The influence of the Judaizing teachers was a major 1st century problem
 1. They ignored the clear teaching of Christ removing the division between Jew/Gentile (**Gal. 3:28-29; Eph. 2:14-18**)
 2. They were teaching justification by works of the Law of Moses, namely binding circumcision as being necessary for salvation (**Rom. 2; Ac. 15:1-2**)
- B. Jerusalem Counsel in response to the Judaizing teachers
 - Paul and Barnabas disputed with them in Judea (**Acts 15:1-2**)
 - Determined Paul and Barnabas and others at Judea go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders to discuss this question
 1. Peter was present and taught (by his mouth the Gentiles had heard, and they received the HS) – **Acts 15:6-11**
 2. Barnabas was present and taught with Paul (of the miracles and wonders worked by God before the Gentiles) – **Acts 15:12**
 3. James’ speech (pointing out prophecy) (**Acts 15:13-21**)
 4. A decree was sent out concerning the matter (**Ac. 15:23-29**)
 - a. Barnabas among those who delivered it to Antioch (**Ac. 15:22, 30-31**)
 - b. Stayed and taught with Paul and others (**Ac. 15:35**)
- C. Both Peter and Barnabas involved in preaching the acceptance of the Gentiles and correcting those Judaizing teachers’ error.

II. BARNABAS

- A. Given the name son of encouragement by apostles (**Ac. 4:36-37**)
 - A Good man, full of the HS and faith (**Ac. 11:22-24**)
- B. Among the first to work among the Gentiles
 - Sent to Antioch (**Ac. 11:19-24**)
 - Went to get Saul then stayed a year teaching (**Ac. 11:25-26**)
- C. Went with Paul preaching to Gentiles
 - 1st preaching trip (**Ac. 13:2-3**)
 - When the Jews rejected, they went to the Gentiles (**:45-52**)
 - Defended that at the Jerusalem conference (Ac. 15:12)
- D. Not timid or afraid to stand up or stand alone
 1. Stood up for Saul at Jerusalem when they were (understandably) afraid to welcome him – **Acts 9:26-28**
 2. Determined to take John Mark and parted ways with Paul – **Ac. 15:36-41**

- E. Yet, Peter and even Barnabas played the hypocrite – **Gal. 5:11-21**

III. EVEN BARNABAS WAS CARRIED AWAY – WHAT DO WE LEARN?

A. The Power of Peer Pressure (Not just for the young people)

1. **Gal. 2:12** – They only withdrew from the Gentiles when these men from James came
2. Barnabas wasn't young and immature, but fell to the pressure of others and was carried away with the hypocrisy – **Gal. 2:13**
3. Peter had learned a lesson in peer pressure before when he denied Christ – **Lk. 22:54-62**
4. Sometimes we want to 'follow the crowd' to do evil – **Ex. 23:2**
5. **1 Cor. 15:33** – often use this verse in talking to young people to avoid worldly people – but the point here is that if the Christians kept associating with those who had denied the resurrection of Christ and gone beyond the doctrine of Christ, they would be negatively affected

B. The Power of Our Influence

1. Especially for teachers – be an example (**1 Tim. 4:12-16**)
2. Be an example of good works and sound speech – **Titus 2:6-8**
3. Be an example to the world – **Mt. 5:13-16**
4. One bad example can lead many astray – **Titus 1:9-11**
5. What if Peter had done right and stood up to these men of James?

C. Do Not Put Your Confidence in Men

- Often, people follow "good men" right into error and sin
 - Only imitate men as they imitate Christ – **1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Eph. 4:13; 2 Cor. 10:12-13, 17** – Put your faith in Christ NOT man
1. Good men sometimes disappoint
 - a. Abraham (Gen. 20) – lied to Abimelech about Sarah
 - b. Moses (Num. 20:12) – struck rock instead of speaking
 - c. David (2 Sam. 11-12) – sin w/ Bathsheba
 2. Men do not always act consistent with what they believe/teach
 - d. Peter and the others were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel (**Gal. 2:14**)
 - e. They had both taught and stood for the truth in the past (**Acts 11:1-17; 15:7-12**)
 - f. Sometimes we do what we know we should not do (**Rom. 7:18-20**)

D. Even Leaders Who Sin Need Rebuked

1. Paul withstood Peter to the face "B/c he was to be blamed" ('stood to be condemned' – ASV, NASB, NIV, ESV) – **Gal. 2:11**
2. The rebuke was public – **Gal. 2:14**
3. Elders should be rebuked – **1 Tim. 5:17-20**
4. Rebuke is a sign of love – **Rev. 3:19**
5. Though not pleasant in the moment, it benefits us later – **Heb. 12:9-11**. Peter would regard Paul as beloved brother (**2 Pt. 3:15**)

Conclusion:

1. This seems so out of place for Peter and even Barnabas

2. Barnabas was drawn away by the hypocrisy. – If Barnabas could be led away so can we by the influence of a bad example and the power of peer pressure.
3. Let's watch our influence, live properly as imitators of God, and rebuke when necessary.