

A SEEKING UNITY. Galatians 2:1-3; Acts 15.

- ❖ The Judaizers that arrived in Antioch caused a serious dispute against Paul and Barnabas.
- ❖ Then God revealed them that Paul, Barnabas and some Gentile believers should travel to Jerusalem to address this discussion with the apostles and the elders.
- ❖ That meeting was initially private. Nevertheless, some Judaizing Pharisees began a public argument.
- ❖ After a long deliberation, the Church supported Paul and unity was reestablished for some time.

B FALSE BROTHERS. Galatians 2:4-5.

- ❖ Outward circumcision was to be a symbol of circumcision of the heart (Deut. 10:16, 30:6, Jer. 4:4, Rom. 2:29). It represents a stripping away of our confidence in ourselves and a faithful dependence on God instead.
- ❖ Making any rite a requisite for salvation is to deny the redeeming power of Christ's sacrifice.
- ❖ The teaching of the false brothers was trying to exchange the "liberty which we have in Christ Jesus" for slavery. What does "liberty in Christ" mean? (John 8:33-34; Romans 6:17)
- ❖ Freedom for the Christian is the opportunity to live a life of unhindered devotion to God. It involves freedom from being enslaved to the desires of our sinful nature, freedom from the condemnation of the law, and freedom from the power of death.

C UNITY IN DIVERSITY. Galatians 2:6-10.

- ❖ The Jewish had a strong biblical foundation, so they could accept Jesus as the Messiah because He fulfilled everything that was revealed in the Word. That ministry was entrusted to Peter.
- ❖ Paul was prepared to reach those who didn't know the truth before. The Gentiles ministry was entrusted to him.
- ❖ Paul, Peter and other apostles used different styles, but the message was the same.

D CONFRONTATION IN ANTIOCH. Galatians 2:11-13.

- ❖ God showed Peter a vision, then he stopped considering the Gentiles unclean and began to mingle with them (Acts 10). That's why Peter pluckily lived with Gentiles when he was visiting the Church in Antioch.
- ❖ Nevertheless, when some Jews came from Jerusalem, he stopped mingling with the Gentiles to please those Jews. His hypocritical attitude influenced the other Jews in the Church.

E FACING THE CONFRONTATION. Galatians 2:14.

- ❖ Peter eating with the Jews from Jerusalem was not the main issue, but that he was deliberately distancing himself from the Gentiles and not allowing them to eat with the Jews.
- ❖ His acts arose the question, were the Gentiles second-class Christians?
- ❖ The most sensitive Gentiles thought that they should become Jews to be Christians (accepting the doctrine of the false brothers).
- ❖ Paul's confrontation was necessary and clear. Peter's response was not registered in the Bible, but it is obvious that he accepted Paul's appeal and he changed his attitude.
- ❖ The unity of the Church and the Gospel overcame.