
Study 3

Galatians 2:11-21 | How not to be a hypocrite

Get Talking

1. The church is often accused of being “full of hypocrites”. What is a hypocrite? What motivates hypocrisy? Do you think accusation is fair or not?

READ Galatians 2:11-21

2. Why is a confrontation between Peter and Paul such a big deal in the early days of the church?
3. What did Peter do that Paul saw as hypocritical? Why did he do this? Who else got caught up in it?
4. In what way was Peter “not acting in line with the truth of the gospel” (v14)?
5. Read Acts 10:1-15; 23b-28; 34-35. How do we know that Peter wasn’t acting as an unbeliever but as a hypocrite? What had he already learned?
6. How does the Peter-Paul incident relate to the Galatian situation?

7. Try to define each of these important words/phrases in v16:
 - a. “justified”
 - b. “works of the law”
 - c. “faith”
8. How does each of these work in terms of our relationship with God?
9. What question is Paul asking about justification (v17)? How does he answer his question (v18-19)?
10. What do you think it means to have “died to the law” (v19)?
11. What radical change has happened to those who have put their faith in Jesus (v20)?
12. How does this make a difference when it comes to a) how we see ourselves and how we see others and b) our relationship with God?
13. How can a right understanding of grace keep us from being hypocrites?