SET FREE - Galatians

Principle Versus Pressure (2:11-21)

***The context for Paul rebuking Peter…***

*The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”* ***(Acts 11:1-3)***

***The basis of Paul’s rebuke: Peer pressure trumped a Gospel principle…***

*When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.* ***(Gal. 2:11)***

***Giving in to legalistic peer pressure…***

* ***Destroys unity –*** *“Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles…”* ***(v. 12a)***
* ***Is driven by fear –*** *“…because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.”* ***(v. 12b)***
* ***Compromises God’s truth and your character –*** *“The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, ‘You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?’”* ***(vv. 13-14)***
* ***Violates the heart of the gospel –*** *“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”* ***(vv. 15-16)***
* ***Makes a mockery of Jesus –*** *“If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker.”* ***(vv. 17-18)***

🔍***The Peter Quiz: Whom do I exclude? Does a fear of man drive me to compromise Biblical***

 ***principles? Where does my life/character reveal hypocrisy?***

***Spiritual freedom is determined by how we live…***

* ***Live for God, not man –*** *“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.”* ***(v. 19)***
* ***Live by faith, not works –*** *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God…”* ***(v. 20)***
* ***Live from love, not fear –*** *“…who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”* ***(v. 21)***