A Righteous Confrontation Galatians 2:11-14

September 23, 2018 – Pastor Nick Neves

There are parallel benefits that we will receive from studying the conflict recorded in this passage. 1. This story illustrates that adding law to the gospel creates and undermines the primacy of Jesus in salvation. 2. This story serves as an historical example of how to contend with failures in the body of Christ.
The influence that the men from Jerusalem had upon Peter would indicate that the Counsel of Acts 15 (AD 49) had not taken place yet. The pressure of their presence caused Peter to pull back from eating with the Gentile Believers.
Why is it so important that Paul address this change of behavior in Peter? Because if our actions don't show genuine to one another, we are revealing that we don't really understand the gospel! (See John 13:34-35, Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 John 4;11-12)
Galatians 2:12 explains why Peter behaved this way: It was that drove his hypocrisy.
Galatians 2:13 – And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.
When other Jewish Christians in Antioch witnessed this unloving behavior in Peter, they were swept up into the same divisive sin.
To deny fellowship to Gentile believers was to imply that <i>following the law</i> , not faith in Jesus, is the thing that actually purifies a person. To add works to the scheme of salvation is to rob Jesus of the exclusive He deserves for saving us.

Because Peter's behavior gave the wrong impression about such an important truth, Paul had to confront Peter. Notice how he goes about that:

a. He confronts Peter to his (verse 11)
b. He confronts Peter before them* (verse 14)
*Leaders are not perfect – sometimes stumble. When they do, it may be necessary to address their sins publicly so that the negative example of their actions might be somewhat nullified for the people they influenced.
Peter's actions made it <i>appear</i> as though he had bought into the false doctrine of faith plus works. Are there any ways that <i>your</i> actions are undermining <i>your</i> beliefs?