

Discussion #3 — Galatians 2:1-10 — Taking a stand

Introduction: This passage refers to what was probably Paul's third trip to Jerusalem in the 14 years since his conversion. He tells us (v. 1) that he was traveling with his two good friends, Barnabas and Titus. He goes on to say that he contacted his travel agent only after a revelation in which God told him to go and confer with church leaders in Jerusalem about the message that he was preaching to the Gentiles.

Review: What was that message?

1. This meeting probably prevented a major split in the early church. Why? (Acts 15:1-5)
2. Sometimes we avoid conferring with others because we are worried about how they may react. Do you normally discuss your ideas and plans with others? With whom? What usually happens when you do/don't?
3. Give an example of a time when you did or did not discuss your plans. What happened?
4. Apparently, the leaders in Jerusalem agreed that Titus did not have to be circumcised (v. 3-5). Why does Paul include this information?
5. We normally think of "taking a stand" as something we do when someone is trying to lead us into immoral behavior, but Paul is taking a hard line against people who appeared to be and thought that they were super-moral. Why did the Judaizers consider themselves better than others?
6. What man-made standards do you impose on others, e.g., dress, speech, actions, etc.?
7. In verse 6, Paul says that "God does not judge by external appearances." What message(s) should we take from that statement? Give examples of how that message is or is not reinforced in our society.
8. How would you change the way you live your life if you unexpectedly inherited \$10 million? How do you think God would feel about your plan? With whom would you discuss your plan?