



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 19 & 20, 2020

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Galatians 2:11-14

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In today's passage the Apostle Paul opposes Peter to his face, for acting hypocritically. Peter, who formerly would eat with gentile believers, suddenly separated himself from them on account of visiting Jews of the "circumcision party" (i.e. Jews who believed that circumcision was necessary for salvation). Peter's hypocrisy led other Jewish believers down the same path and so Paul publicly confronts him to his face.

Discussion Questions

1. Every believer is considered "clean" and worthy to come before a holy God because of the gospel. The gospel destroyed the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile. Peter understood and believed in this gospel. And yet, contrary to what he believed, Peter withdrew from eating with the Gentiles because he feared the Jews from Jerusalem. He was so concerned with what the Jews would think of him - Peter so desired their approval - that he acted contrary to his convictions. Peter was acting like a hypocrite. Who are you fearful of? What group of people will cause you to act contrary to your beliefs and convictions (or perhaps **not act** according to your beliefs

and convictions) because of your concern over what they will think of you? Why do you think you do this? What are you afraid of?

2. Peter's actions caused the other Jews to also act hypocritically. One man's actions became a movement. Peter's choices were not inconsequential. Similarly, our choices and actions matter. When we act contrary to our convictions, or don't act according to our convictions, those around us (especially those closest to us) will start to act the same. How have you acted hypocritically in the past, and how has that had a detrimental effect on those around you?
3. Is there any disconnect between what you supposedly believe and how you live out your life?
4. What sociological cause, political issue, or personal affinity are you more passionate, bold, and prone to talk about with strangers, than the Gospel? Why are you more animated, passionate, and bold about things that will soon pass away than about people who will suffer for eternity in hell without the gospel?

(NOTE: The tone of today's passage is very severe and should cause us to ask ourselves very pointed questions, even if it hurts to do so. To not ask these kinds of questions of ourselves, is to miss the point of today's passage.)