

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

May 9, 2016

The Busted Testimony

GALATIANS 2:11-13 NKJV – (11) Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; (12) for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. (13) And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Public sin was once publicly rebuked. It should still be done this way, especially when committed by those of celebrity lest others think that sin is not sin. These "famous" brethren can lead weaker brethren astray. When someone of note goes astray, all the more reason to expose the error. Peter's error was adversely influencing others, including Barnabas, who was Paul's companion on his first journey to take the gospel to Gentiles. Barnabas, and Peter, were the two people that should have known to protect the church from any hint of racial discrimination.

It is bad when brethren err. It is even worse when error is swept under the rug without correction. But, when the error involves Big Brother, how many of us ignore or otherwise avoid dealing with the problem?

What was the wrong Peter committed that caused Paul to take issue with him? Peter, a Jew, was visiting a church with Gentiles. Initially, Peter did not let racial differences determine his association; he treated all brethren as brethren. This would be expected of Peter. After all, he first introduced the gospel to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius, recorded in **Acts 10**. He had been outspoken at the conference in Jerusalem when such matters were discussed, as recorded in **Acts 11** and **15**. The conclusion of those meetings was that the gospel was for all without respect to race, and salvation was offered to everyone on the same terms. Peter was now acting inconsistently with that truth and making distinction among his brethren, fearing those who were Jewish Christians lest they not approve of him.

Many today cloud their testimony by being religious (not spiritual) one moment and then hypocrites the next moment. Do not fall victim to this trap. Do not destroy your testimony in Christ for Satan's gain.

SCRIPTURE READIN

LUKE 8:39

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The devil doesn't care if you go to church or read your bible; as long as you don't apply it to your life.