



"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, 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." (Galatians 2:20-21)

PRE-SEASON TRAINING SESSIONS 7 & 8: THE GALATIAN CHALLENGE (I.E. READ THE BOOK/LETTER!)

Do any of the following statements strike a chord with you? If so, you're in danger! You may be a people pleaser rather than a God pleaser, and/or a hypocrite rather than a person of truth. This is a real heart check...For all of us!

You struggle to say "no" • You're hyper-sensitive about rejection from others • You feel shattered for days, even weeks when someone criticizes you • You act based on what "other people think" of you • You say one thing but do something else • You behave one way but tell others to behave differently • You say different things to different people in order to get their approval



Paul v Peter: The Difference!

Paul's mission in life was to be a servant of Christ. He was not a people pleaser! To be so would be to contradict his very faith. Nothing and no one would come between Paul and his personal walk with Jesus. Of Paul, it could not be said that he was two-faced – a hypocrite: saying one thing yet doing another; pointing out sin in a person's life while committing the same sin himself! Peter, on the other hand, was strongly opposed by Paul for his hypocrisy. In Galatians 2:11-21, we read about Peter eating with Gentile believers until the Judaizers (those who claimed works must be added to faith for salvation) arrived on the scene. At that point, he withdrew from the Gentiles through of fear of what James and the elders/visitors from the Jerusalem church would think. And not only was Peter guilty of hypocrisy, he also led astray other Jewish Christians, Barnabas, a pillar of the faith!

Paul v Peter: The Decision!

So...Who do you identify most with? Are you a Paul – so sold out for Jesus that others' opinions of what you do or say don't affect your mood or your actions? Is it your goal to please God in every circumstance of life, feeling His pleasure

"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10)



when you do so? For you, compromising your faith is not an option. It's a non-negotiable. Following Jesus and walking according to His Word are far more important than following the crowd, pleasing their appetites or yielding to their expectations of how you should behave.

Or, are you a Peter – quick to tell others what to do but hypocritically not complying yourself? Are you living by the mantra, "Do as I say, not as I do?"

You can't be a Paul and a Peter at the same time! You either stand for Christ – unreservedly, unashamedly, or you waver in the face of public opinion – what you perceive others will think of you if do, or don't (*fill in the blank*). At a time when it's tough to stand alone, when peer pressure threatens to engulf us, when we want to fit in and not be "the odd one out", when pleasing people is easier – far less confrontational than pleasing God – think of Paul. He refused to deny his allegiance to the one true Gospel and his one true God. Let his God pleasing, Christ honoring focus be ours as we seek His approval...and His alone!

See you next week!
 Jim Spence: Head Coach - HCYA Hurricanes
 Founder - Sports Quest
www.sportsquesttraining.com / 832.593.7777