

**Welcome Home**  
**Love Isn't Partial**  
**09/09/2018 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: Galatians 2:11-14, John 3:16**

**Introduction**

- Last week we began a series called “**Welcome Home**”. We discussed **Love Limits Liberty**.
- If we are truly going to be effective in evangelism, we must step outside of our comfort zones at times.
- As we think about others more than we think about ourselves, we just may find ourselves limiting our own liberties.
- We may find ourselves in places we wouldn't ordinarily go with people we wouldn't ordinarily be around.
- That leads us to today's topic which is **Love Isn't Partial**.
- I do not mean **Partial** in the sense of “incomplete” necessarily. I mean it in the sense of partiality.
- **Definition:** Partiality - unfair bias in favor of one thing or person compared with another; favoritism.

**Galatians 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. <sup>12</sup>Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. <sup>14</sup>When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

- V.11 - Paul is writing this letter, and he is recounting a time that he “opposed” the apostle Peter directly.
- Paul confronted Peter, “because he was clearly in the wrong.” The Greek literally says, “one who was condemned.”
- Peter is traditionally thought to have been a leader within the group of original 12 disciples, because of how he is mentioned throughout the gospel accounts.
- Paul would not have addressed Peter directly like this if Peter had not done something that was really wrong
- V. 12 – Up until this point, when Peter was among Gentiles, he assimilated into their society.
- He spent a lot of time with them, and would even eat at their houses.
- During this time in history, Jews were not to even associate with Gentiles, much less eat with them.
- Peter, however received a vision from God in **Acts 10:13-15** that broke down the barriers Peter was used to.
- However, when “men came from James” he pulled away and separated himself from the Gentiles.
- James was a leader in the Jerusalem church, the brother of Jesus, and thus a Jew.
- Even though it says, “from James,” we know James did not actually send these men. **Act 15:24**
- These men were more than likely Jewish Christians who were known as the Judaizers.
- They held to the Law and wanted every Christian to follow Jewish customs and rules.
- Paul says that Peter separated himself from the Gentiles when these Jewish men came “because he was afraid of” them. He was afraid of what they would think if they seen him eating with Gentiles.
- These folks were legalistic, and Peter was more than likely trying to keep the peace.
- The problem was that Peter was being hypocritical. As a leader, Peter's actions spoke volumes to people.
- Here he was seen as favoring the Jews and casting the Gentiles to the side as an inferior people.
- V. 13 – This really displays the sin Peter committed. By his example, he led others astray as well.
- The other Jews that were there, even Barnabas, began to act in the same hypocritical manner.
- They showed a level of partiality that went against everything God and Christ had taught them.
- V. 14 – Peter and the others were “not acting in line with the truth of the gospel.”
- They were showing partiality to people merely because of their status in the world.
- By doing this, their message to others around them was that Gentiles were still inferior people compared to the Jews and that in order to be righteous before God, one had to basically become a Jew.

- This type of thought process does not go along with **John 3:16** which says, "'For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'"
- God loves everyone the same, regardless of where you were born, who you were born to, and how you look.
- The gospel message is one that is supposed to be taken to everyone in the world, not just a few.
- Even though Peter was a man of strong faith, he made a mistake here in succumbing to the ways of man, rather than staying in step with God's way.
- We it comes to being "Welcoming," we can learn a lot from this passage.
- Just like Peter, we too tend to revert back to old ways.
- We have a tendency at times to show partiality or favoritism to one person or group over another.
- Often times you will see people associate with those that are "important," while forsaking those that they may feel as "less important."
- Or worse, you will have a friend that normally spends a lot of time with you, but as soon as someone else with more \_\_\_\_\_ comes into the picture, they act as if they do not even know you.
- This type of partiality happens a lot in our world today, and the church is no exception.
- Think about the "Meet and Greet" time this morning.
  - Who did you spend the most time speaking with? Those you know, or those you do not know well?
  - Did you even leave your seat to go speak to others?
  - **If you are a visitor this morning, did you feel welcome here today? Why?**
- If we are going to be effective at reaching the lost in our world today, we cannot show partiality.
- We cannot be afraid of what other's may say or think about us, as long as we are doing what God has called us to do.
- Jesus spent a lot of time with the "regular" people. In fact, he called "regular" people to be his disciples.
- As Christians, following the example of Christ, we should be taking the gospel message to all the world.
- **If we stay in cliques, where we only associate with "church people," how do we reach the world?**
- There is no place for partiality or favoritism in Christianity.
- All of us as Gentiles should be thankful for that, because if God was partial, you and I would never had a chance at salvation.
- Let's welcome people with "Open Arms" and treat people with the same love and kindness that God gives to us.
- **God's Love Isn't Partial.**

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

### Study of the Book of Romans

Romans 1:21-32