



Peter's Hypocrisy

Galatians 2:11-14

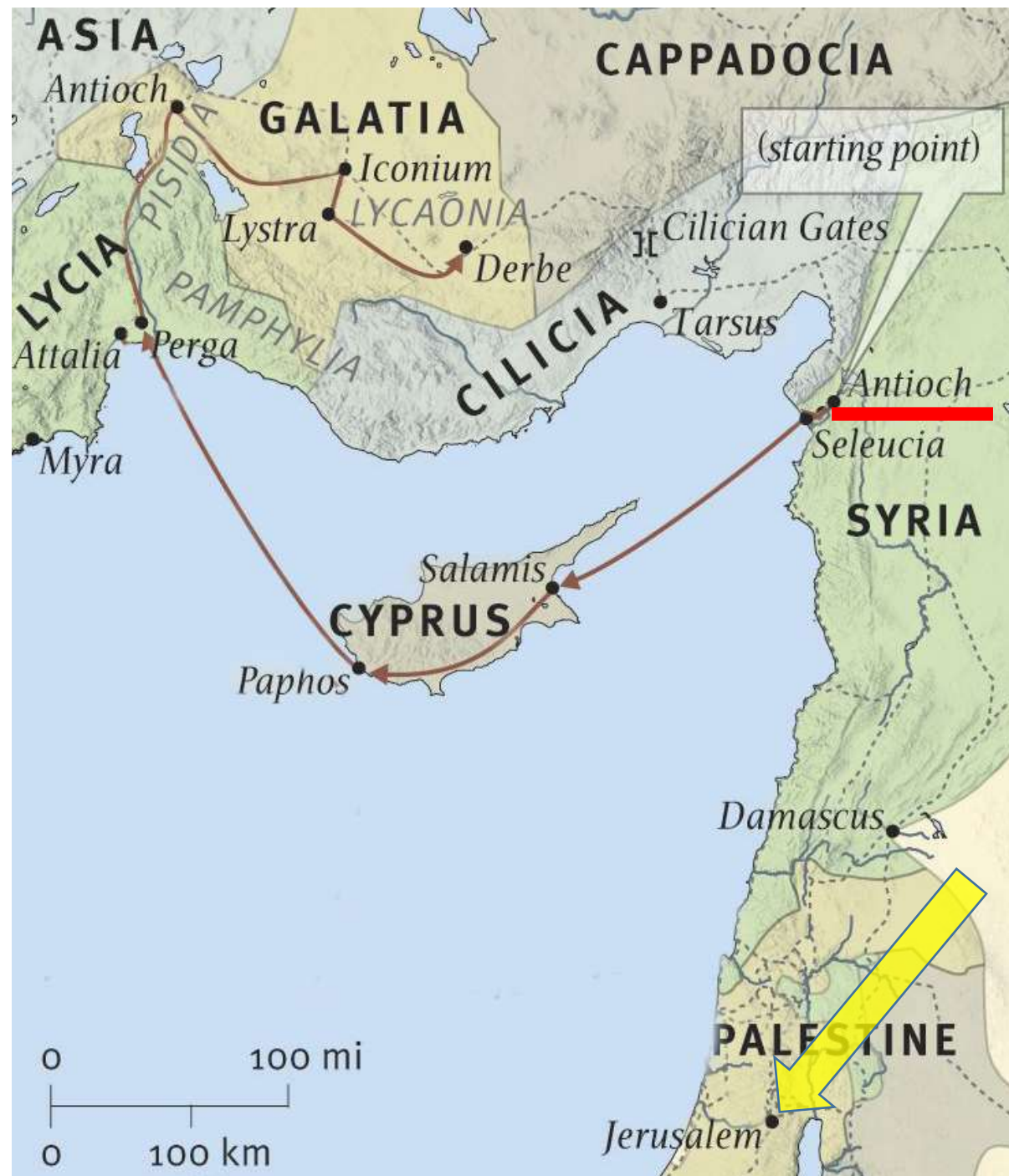
But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²



For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Galatians 2:11

- But when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch,





Acts 11:26

- and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. **And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.**



Galatians 2:11

- But when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

**Fully convinced that Peter is guilty
Paul confronts Him face-to-face.**

Face-to-face is the best
way to confront and deal
with big issues.



We need to avoid the keyboard
as much as possible.



What is the major
issue Paul is
confronting in this
text?



Galatians 2:12

- For before certain men came from James, **he was eating with the Gentiles;**



Gentiles would not have had the same rules associated with meals as Jews. I.E.

- **Consumption of pork**
- **Eating food offered to idols**
- **Meat in which the blood was properly drained**
- **Food not properly tithed**
- **Eating w/o the ritual cleansing of the hands**



Do you remember the story of Cornelius' Conversion?

Acts 10 & 11





Acts 10:12–13

- In it [a sheet] were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”



Acts 10:14–16

- But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.



Acts 10:14–16

- But Peter said, “**By no means,** Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “**What God has made clean, do not call common.**” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

At this point, Peter



- Gets an invite come to a Roman [Gentile] Centurion's house in Joppa
- Makes the journey to Joppa
- Thoroughly walks Cornelius through the life of Christ and the gospel
- Is interrupted by the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon these Gentiles in the same way as Acts 2
- Commanded the Gentiles who received the Holy Spirit to be baptized



Acts 11:2–3

- So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying,

“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”



Let's examine Peter's Journey on this Issue

1. While Peter was a disciple of Christ he routinely ate with Jesus with sinners.





Matthew 9:11

- And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”



1. While Peter was a disciple of Christ he routinely ate with Jesus with sinners.

2. Jesus ascends to heaven and Peter returns to keeping the Jewish law of separation of Jewish and Gentiles.



Acts 10:28

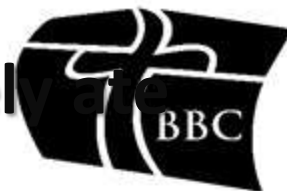
- And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, **but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.**



1. While Peter was a disciple of Christ he routinely ate with Jesus with sinners.

2. Jesus ascends to heaven and Peter returns to keeping the Jewish law of separation of Jewish and Gentiles.

3. Peter has a vision from God that it is lawful to dine with Gentiles and eat what they eat.



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3. Peter has a vision from God that it is lawful to dine with Gentiles and eat what they eat.
- 4. Peter returns to Jerusalem where he gets rebuked to his face for crossing the line and eating with Gentiles.**



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5. In Antioch, Peter again eats with Gentiles without regard to the Mosaic law.



Galatians 2:12

- For before certain men came from James, **he was eating with the Gentiles;**



Galatians 2:12

- For before certain men came from James,

Acts 15:24
seems to point at this



Acts 15:24

- Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,



Galatians 2:12

- For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.



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4. Peter returns to Jerusalem where he gets rebuked to his face for crossing the line and eating with Gentiles.
5. In Antioch, Peter again eats with Gentiles without regard to the Mosaic law.

6. Jews show up from Jerusalem and Peter returns to separating from Gentiles.

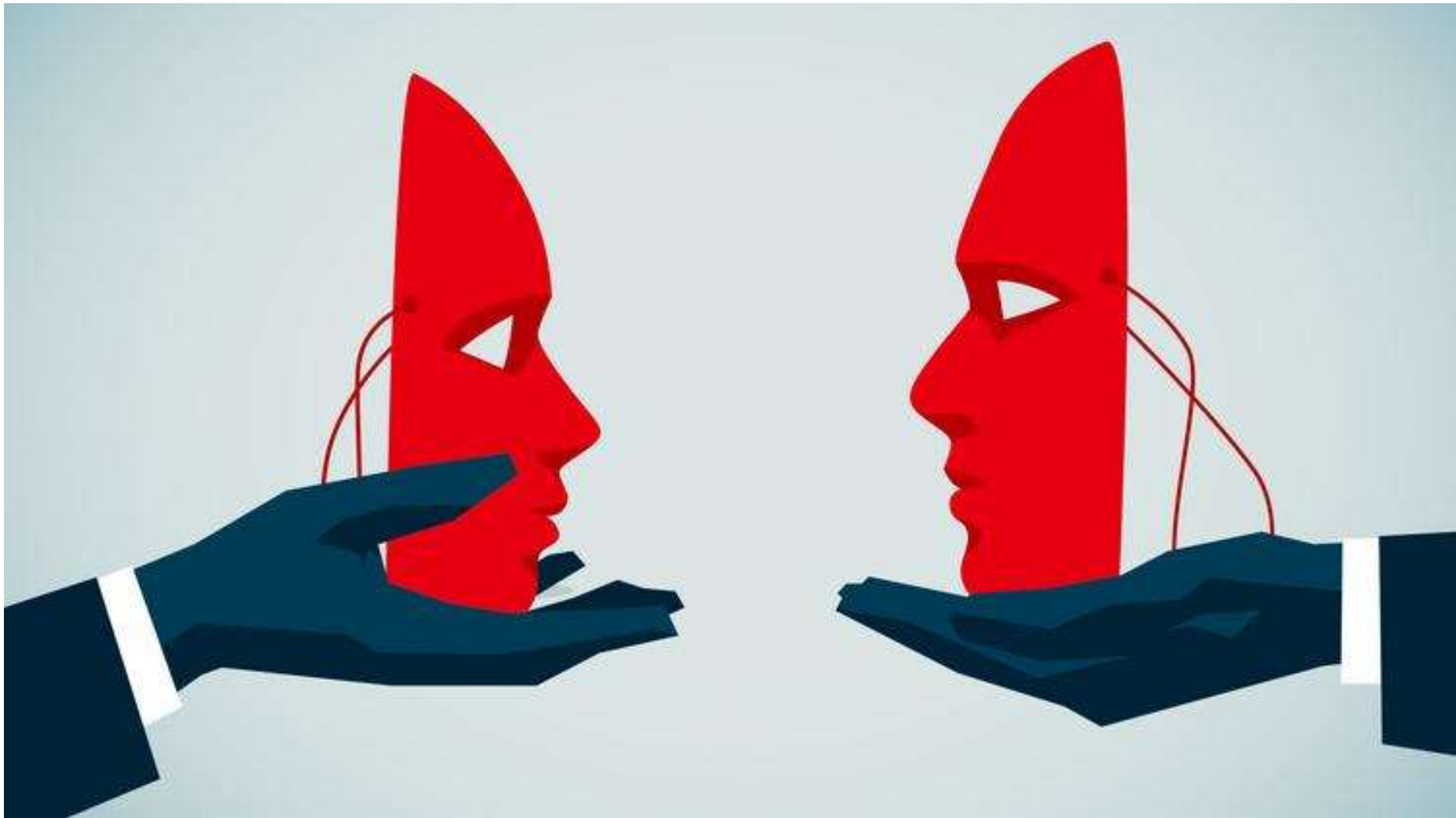


Galatians 2:13

- And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.



What was their hypocrisy?



The word *hypocrite* ultimately came into English from the Greek word *hypokrites*, which means “an actor” or “a stage player.”



The Greek word itself is a compound noun: it's made up of two Greek words that literally translate as "an interpreter from underneath." That bizarre compound makes more sense when you know that the actors in ancient Greek theater wore large masks to mark which character they were playing, and so they interpreted the story from underneath their masks.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/hypocrite-meaning-origin>

Hypocrite



**a person who puts on a false
appearance of virtue or religion**

Merriam-Webster

**Notice Paul doesn't say Peter was
a hypocrite—his focus is the
particular hypocrisy?**



Returning to a separation of Jews and Gentiles in fellowship and dietary laws communicated that faith in Christ was not sufficient for salvation.

One had to also keep the Mosaic law.

This issue is directly tied to the requirement of circumcision since its origin is also the law of Moses.



When Jews from Jerusalem were not in Antioch, Peter would eat with Gentiles and enjoy the liberty we have in Christ.

But when the Judaizers showed up in Antioch Peter was a different person separating himself from the Gentiles.

What do you think the Gentiles thought about this behavior?



Peter walked with
Christ for 3+ years
and still struggled—
what is the
message for us?



Bottom-line

- 1. Christians are going to struggle with hypocrisy in varying degrees.**
- 2. All sin is not hypocrisy. Some sin is just sin—not to glorify it or to minimize it.**
- 3. As long as Christ has not returned the church is going to have sin in it.**



What group of
individuals gets the
harshest of words
from Jesus in the
NT?



But Jesus Rebukes Hypocrisy in the Strongest Terms



Matthew 24:50–51

- the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and **will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites.** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



Matthew 7:3–5

- Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? **You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye,** and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.



Turn to Matthew 23



Matthew 23:1–3 (NET)

- ¹ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The experts in the law and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat. ³ Therefore pay attention to what they tell you and do it. But do not do what they do, **for they do not practice what they teach.**



Matthew 23:5

- They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,



Matthew 23:23

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you tithe mint and dill and cumin,** and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.



Matthew 23:25

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.**



Matthew 23:26

- You blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.**



Matthew 23:27

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.**



Matthew 23:27–28

- So you also **outwardly appear righteous to others**, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.



Galatians 2:14

- But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,

Next Week



How do I avoid being hypocrite?

Or hypocrisy?



1. Determine if you, in fact, are an authentic follower of Christ or are engaged in a fraud?

Fraud

- a person who is not what he or she pretends to

Merriam-Webster



Are you
characterized by
hypocrisy?

Is your entire life a
fraud?



**2. Strive to care more
about what God thinks
about you than any other
human on the planet.**

Previously Peter got it right.



Acts 5:29

- But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God rather than men.**”



**3. Be internally honest
about your OWN struggle
with sin.**

You are not deceiving God.

Acts 15:8



- **And God, who knows the heart,** bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,

1 John 3:20

- for whenever our heart condemns us, **God** is greater than our heart, and **he knows everything.**



1 John 1:9

- **If we confess our sins,**
he is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to
cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

I struggle with being patient and kind.



I struggle with having a Christ like attitude with other human who do not project the traditional gender roles.

My personal prayer life is not where it needs to be.



**4. Don't allow others to
change your moral compass
or influence you to ignore
what you know to be true.**

That's what Peter did.



Teaching the **TRUTH**

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**5. Seek to be transparent
about your sin with those
who know you the most.**



**Being a sinner doesn't make
you a hypocrite.**