

A Fearless Defense of Fundamental Truth

Galatians 2:11-21

The very word “fundamentalism” creates negative reaction in the hearts and minds of those who are more liberal. I have asked the question, which I would like to ask you also, “If you required surgery of an urgent nature, which would you have to perform the surgery; one that practices the fundamentals of surgery or any quack will do? How much more this ought to be considered necessary in matters pertaining to salvation. Not to address this issue is seeking to be politically correct at the expense of being biblically correct. Paul was not the man who would avoid necessary confrontation. Paul was constantly charged with not being on the same footing as some of the other apostles. Paul did battle with the saints including Peter, and Peter was the match, if it may be stated, Peter was not a match to Paul’s accusations against him. There is no factor that would suggest Peter’s infallibility. In fairness to Peter, he accepted the rebuke. Reproving sin is an example of boldness and accepting rebuke is the example of being a man of quality.

Peter was caught in the trap of being double minded and weak in his commitment to law verses grace as related in Galatians 2:12 “For before that certain came from James, he come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.” Compromise is never justified as Peter was caught in compromise. It is not possible to please men and please God when there is variance in biblical doctrine. Peter had gone against divine revelation, which Peter should have remembered from his vision in Acts 10:11-16. Christianity is no more days and meats, but faith. The rules of Leviticus is over Galatians 2:1-10. Peter was in the grip of fear, which is a reflection of when he denied the Lord at His trial. No wind of false doctrine should drive the saints off course no matter what may be the cost. The cost to be driven off course is greater then to stay firm. Peter was practicing “situation ethics,” as practiced by Peter in 2:11-14, which has no room in Christian fundamentalism. Weak in the knees leads others astray as seen in 2:13. It necessitates the saints then, as well as now, to know God’s word that the church will not be destroyed in dissensions. As then there were those who were deceived. Public sin needs to be confronted in public as Peter was as seen in 2:14, while

private sin needs to be confronted in privacy. Backbiting, whispering and tale-bearing is not to be part of the family of God and where this is, may we come to the common denominator, the cross of Christ and seek forgiveness from Christ and one another.

I am waiting to hear from you! jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca