

Gal. 2: 11 "I opposed him to his face"

**Intro Song:** Angus McDonell - "River of Life"  
[CatholicHack.com](http://CatholicHack.com) for the link!

on today's show we are looking at Galatians 2:11 - what did St. Peter do wrong? Was he really acting like a hypocrite? Or... was it St. Paul who learned a valuable lesson here?

[FullnessOfTruth.org](http://FullnessOfTruth.org) - "Winning The Culture War"!

**Prayers:**

- For the repose of the Soul of John Mederios
- *Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen.*
- For the discernment & direction of life for Anne in the UK
- *For his Holiness Pope BXVI*
- *New Media Evangelization - the New Evangelization!*
- Hail Mary!

**Galatians 2:**

- Have you ever heard a criticism of the Pope - specifically of St. Peter because of Galatians 2:11 - **I opposed him to his face!?!**
- I have... critics of the supremacy of the Pope - as "first among equals" will often quote this verse saying - "See... St. Paul puts Peter in his place".
- I have also seen critics of the Church use this verse in an attempt to show how the Pope is fallible... as opposed to the Church's teaching - when the Pope is teaching on faith & morals - ex-cahadra - he is then teaching infallibly...
- Neither of these challenges prove true
  - As we read from St. Paul's own hand...
    - He verified his own Gospel with St. Peter - Chapter 1
    - if anything this shows St. Peter to be weak... not necessarily

a sinner... and, even if he did SIN... this has NOTHING to do with the treating on Papal ineffability.

- **I purpose to you there is something deeper going on here... a lesson that ST. PAUL learns & applies to us today in our daily walk of faith!**

### **Let's take a look!**

- **To set the stage in the first 10 verses:**
  - St. Paul goes up to the 1st Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)
    - which deals specifically with the issue of Gentiles & how to bring them into the fold.
  - St. Paul shares with the Council brothers the Gospel he has been proclaiming to the Gentiles...
    - They added NOTHING to it... it was inline with the Church
      - because he received it from Christ just as the others did
      - they gave him the right hand of fellowship and validate his mission to the Gentile's
  - The pesky Judiezers were steering up trouble though
    - Jewish Christians who claimed the Mosiac Law was still in effect: **The WORKS of the Law**
      - Keep the feasts
      - Keep the dietary requirments
      - Circumcise the Gentile believers
        - Like the Maccabiens who subdued their Gentile subjects after they concurred a territory
      - Keep a distance from the Gentiles
  - St. Paul would have NONE of this and would write MUCH to refute these Judizers and their lack of TRUE understanding on the Law, and of what Jesus accomplished in relation to it.
    - *verse 15 - we did not yield submission even for a moment,*
    - St. Paul was clearly very upset at what was happening to the communities he established in the region of Galatia..
      - He proclaimed the TRUE Gospel to them... and

continued on

- Then the Juderizers show up and start telling folks they have to minting the WORKS of the Law to be saved
- Like in Acts 15 when St. Paul hotly debates them... he knows all to well the LAW... having studied under Rabbi Gamalial - Our Rabbi!
  - The Law gave way to Christ...
- So St. Paul is HOT under the collar having to repair what the Judizers have broken in these communities
  - **Ch. 1 Verse 6- 8** [6] *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel [7] not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. [8] But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed.*
- Then... St. Peter pays an Apostolic visitation to the Churches of Galatia... when St. Paul was there... everything was just fine
  - They were eating & treating the Gentiles as equals
  - Until.... the party of the circumcised shows up!
  - Then St. Peter stops eating & drinking with them...
    - Why?

**[11] 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 ate with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

[13] And with him the rest of the Jews acted insincerely, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their insincerity.

[14] But when I saw that they were not straightforward about 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 compel the Gentiles

to live like Jews?"

[15] We ourselves, who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners,  
[16] yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified.

[17] But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not!

[18] But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. **(i.e. the WORKS of the Law)**

[19] For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God.

[20] I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

[21] I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification were through the law, then Christ died to no purpose.

- WOW! How bold is that! A severe chewing out from St. Paul on St. Peter
  - It's clear he took this very personal
  - St. Paul was NOT about to allow the Judizers to tear down the work he put up for Christ in building these communities and preaching the Gospel
  - So... was St. Peter really wrong?
  - Did... St. Peter really sin & commute hypocrisy?
- The party of the circumcised, or the Judizers, failed to understand the purpose of the Law
  - St. Paul spends the next several chapters discussing the "Works of the Law" and its purpose!
    - The law was a "pointer" to Christ
    - The law could NOT give grace but... pointed to the NEED of Grace
    - The Feasts (i.e. Passover) were foreshadowing to the

Sacraments which Christ established & which DO impart actual Grace!

- Jesus is the perfection of all the OT Feasts
  - i.e. - He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
  - He is the First born who will be passed over & taste death & whose blood will shed for the remission of sins
  - It is the bread & wine of the feast that will because HIS body & blood that we, unlike those in the wilderness, who ate the Manna from heaven, and died, will live & be raised up on the last day!
- The circumcision of the old was a foreshadowing to the Baptism of Christ
  - instead of the mark on the flesh
  - there is an indelible mark on the soul
  - instead of being set apart & remaining apart
  - we are set apart so that we are sent to bring back our lost brothers & sisters
    - a TRUE kingdom of Priests! Revelation 1
- But... what about St. Peter?
  - Don't forget... St. Peter was the FIRST to be sent to the Gentiles & the First to be questioned about eating with them! **Acts 11**
  - *[1] Now the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. [2] So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, [3] saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" [4] But Peter began and explained to them in order: [5] "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, something descending, like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came down to me. [6] Looking at it closely I*

*observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. [7] And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' [8] But I said, 'No, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' [9] But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' [10] This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. [11] At that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesare'a. [12] And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brethren also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. [13] And he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon called Peter; [14] he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' [15] As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. [16] And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' [17] If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" [18] When they heard this they were silenced. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life."*

- 
- If St. Peter already KNEW that it was OK to eat & drink & welcome the Gentiles into the fold.... then WHY does he "draw back" from them when the party from James shows up?
- **What gives St. Peter!?!**
  - Notice there is NO answer from St. Peter... we only have St. Paul's side to this.
  - As we said St. Paul was taking this very personal as the

Judizers were tearing down what he build up and he would NOT yield one inch to them!

- Do you detect any stubbornness here from St. Paul!
- Can you relate? I know I can!
- I purpose that St. Peter was NOT trying to commit any sin or even any hypocrisy here; why?
  - He was trying to keep the Judizers in the fold!
  - As even St. Paul says in **Ch. 2 Verse 7** "*just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised*"
  - St. Peter did NOT want to be a stumbling block for the Jewish Christians who did NOT yet understand that they were FREE in Jesus Christ to eat & drink with their Gentile brothers & sisters.
    - A major failing of the Israelites
      - The 10 northern tribes were exiled permanently amongst the Gentiles
      - Jesus had to overturn the money changers in the court of the Gentiles in the Temple. **Matthew 21**
  - St. Peter was showing charity & self-control to the Jewish Christians knowing that they would be scandalized by his actions with the Gentiles.
  - How can we be sure this is the case?
    - St. Paul wrote the letters to the Galatians in about the year 50/51 AD.
    - He wrote the letter to the Romans in about the year 57/58 AD...
- Some 7 or 8 years AFTER he told St. Peter, to his face, that he was a hypocrite... what did St. Paul learn from this experience?
  - Romans 14 :
  - ***[1] As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. [2] One believes he may***

*eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. [3] Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand. [5] One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Let every one be fully convinced in his own mind. [6] He who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. He also who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. [7] None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. [8] If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. [10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; [11] for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." [12] So each of us shall give account of himself to God. [13] Then let us no more pass judgment on one another, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. [14] I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for any one who thinks it unclean. [15] If your brother is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the*



*ruin of one for whom Christ died. [16] So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. [17] For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; [18] he who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. [19] Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. [20] Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for any one to make others fall by what he eats; [21] it is right not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother stumble. [22] The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God; happy is he who has no reason to judge himself for what he approves. [23] But he who has doubts is condemned, if he eats, because he does not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*

- This does NOT sound the like the same St. Paul as we found in Galatians 2
  - I think St. Paul has learned a valuable lesson from St. Peter...
    - Even though the Judizers fail to realize their own freedom from the LAW
    - They are still children of God & who are we to judge them.
    - Instead we must, in charity, try to NOT be a stumbling block to them... but, rather lead them in love to a greater knowledge of Christ
  - Does the Galatians 2 passage show St. Peter:
    - to be a sinner?
    - to be fallible?
    - NOT the first among equals?
  - No...
    - He is a sinner like the rest of us
    - He is not personally infallible however this has NOTHING

do to with the charism of Papal ineffability which protects the Church from bad popes and bad teachings

- He is still first among equals
  - Notice how important it was for St. Paul to
    - verify his Gospel with St. Peter - Gal. 1:18
    - & oppose HIM to his face? What a bold statement which would have had its full impact IF he was the first of the "Pillars" of the Church!