

Cephas and the Gentiles



Defending Gospel Freedom

Galatians 2:11-13

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For 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. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

– Point 1

- **Peter's wrong action in Antioch encouraged other believers to rely on the Law for justification before God.**



Justification by Faith

Galatians 2:14-16

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas 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?

¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

■ Point 2

- **The pure Gospel truth is that sinners are justified (declared not guilty) before God only through faith in Christ and not by the Law.**

... Through Grace Alone

Galatians 2:17-21

17 “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! 18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. 19 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

■ Point 3

- **Through faith in Christ our life every day is a life of trusting in Christ alone for our salvation.**

Application

I encourage you to pray and think about the Catholic understanding of justification. In sum, the Church teaches that salvation is a process of becoming holier and holier through time. All of this is a work of grace that God performs in our hearts through faith. Works done in faith are the natural completion of believing in Christ. As we trust and do God's work, he instills within us more grace so that we may become holier and so be ready to meet him at the end of our life. (*catholic.com*)

***What is the relationship of Good Works,
Grace & Faith?***

Good Works – Fruit of Faith

For as the body
without the spirit is
dead, so faith
without works is
dead also.

James 2:26

