

Galatians 2:3 - 14

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

1 ³ But not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to
 2 be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴ This
 3 matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated
 4 our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus
 5 in order to enslave us. ⁵ But we did not give up and
 6 submit to these people for even a moment, so that the
 7 truth of the gospel would be preserved for you. ⁶ Now
 8 from those recognized as important (what they once
 9 were makes no difference to me; God does not show
 10 favoritism)—they added nothing to me. ⁷ On the
 11 contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the
 12 gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the
 13 circumcised, ⁸ since the one at work in Peter for an
 14 apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in me
 15 for the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas, and John—
 16 those recognized as pillars —acknowledged the grace
 17 that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of
 18 fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should
 19 go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They
 20 asked only that we would remember the poor, which I
 21 had made every effort to do. ¹¹ But when Cephas came
 22 to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood
 23 condemned. ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles
 24 before certain men came from James. However, when
 25 they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because
 26 he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the
 27 rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even
 28 Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when
 29 I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the
 30 gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, “If you, who
 31 are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can
 32 you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle people or groups mentioned
- Mark a check✓ for points of agreement
- Mark an X for points of controversy
- Underline possible motives
- What else do you notice in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How did different people handle agreement?
- How did different people handle controversy?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How do you usually handle awkward situations or controversial issues?
- Do you think Paul’s reaction is a model for all situations? Why or why not?
- How can this passage affect the way you deal with disagreements or awkward circumstances or serious controversies?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- How does this account of controversy relate to other passages, such as Matthew 18:15,ff, or Paul's own words in Galatians 6:1,ff?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**