Fighting for Freedom pt. 2 8.29.10

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 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 2:11-14 ESV

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

"Cephas" Peter. Leader of the apostles.
"Antioch" Site of the first Gentile church. Paul pastored there.
"opposed him to his face" Strong language. Shows the significance of the disagreement.
"because he stood condemned" He knew what he was doing was wrong.
"For before certain men came from James" Most likely, some Judaizers had come up and were falsely claiming to be from James.
"he was eating with the Gentiles; Peter had a vision that told him Gentiles were clean (Ac. 10-11) and he knew the dietary restrictions were no longer in force. Having a meal with someone was a big deal in this culture. Communicated fellowship & unity.
"but when they came he drew back and separated himself" A strategic, military withdrawal. Verbal form could imply it was gradual and deceptive. the Judaizers were in town, he had stopped

P: Anyone could do anything at any moment.

Am I aware of this truth at work in my life? Am I taking the necessary steps to address it?

Practically Speaking:
1. Walk closely with Jesus.
   a. Reminds us that our relationship with God is just that - a *relationship* with God.
   b. Reminds us of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us.
   c. Cultivated through our use of the spiritual discipline - prayer, Bible, etc.
2. Living in community.
   a. Not simply attending a group but being *in* community - leads to accountability.
   b. *The best accountability is proactive not reactive.*

"fearing the circumcision party." Has to be something from the "fear of man" category.
The Fear of Man - Caring more about what someone thinks about us than what God has said about us in the Gospel.

P: The Fear of Man leads to all kinds of problems.

For Example: Idolatry, Ineffectiveness, Lack of love, Being fake, Dishonest, Paralysis

How Do We Address It?
1. Understand what is actually going on.
   a. We have lost sight of Ultimate Reality and believe *we* are most important.
   b. Though it may seem like insecurity, there is an underlying arrogance here.
2. Identify *where* it is at work in our lives. (Work, Home, Family, etc.)
3. Apply the Scriptures and the Gospel to those specific areas.
   a. Ps. 76:4,7, Lk. 12:4-5, the "wrath passages"
   b. Use "Gospel Logic" against it.

"And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by
"the rest of the Jews" The other Christians in Antioch.
"hypocritically" word used for an actor wearing a mask. Here, someone pretending to be something that they are not.
"even Barnabas" Paul's mentor, encourager, wingman.

P: Our sins don't just affect us.

Am I aware of this? How does it motivate me to say "no" to sin and "yes" to righteousness?

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?"

P: The Gospel is both a message and a compass.

"not in step with the truth of the gospel" Not "ortho-walking." "You're weaving!"
"I said to Cephas before them all, If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile..." What gives? You have experienced "Gospel freedom" so why are you going back to legalistic bondage. And furthermore leading others to do the same?!

P: We have a responsibility to rightly call out sin when we see it.

Practically Speaking:
1. Begin by confessing your own sin.
   a. Take the plank out of your own eye before you go after the speck in your brother's. (Matt. 7:4)
2. Seek to be full of Grace and Truth.
3. Depend upon the Holy Spirit to give you the words and bring repentance.
4. Remember James 5:19-20.

Jesus fought & won the ultimate fight for our freedom. He enables and empowers our fight for freedom today.

Works Consulted: MacArthur Study Bible, MacArthur's Commentary on Galatians, Study of Galatians, ESV Study Bible, Message by Yancey Arrington, Paul's Letter to the Galatians by Tim Keller, The Bible Exposition Commentary,