

Title: One For All And All For One - Galatians 2 1-10

Read:

¹⁻⁵Fourteen years after that first visit, Barnabas and I went up to Jerusalem and took Titus with us. I went to clarify with them what had been revealed to me. At that time I placed before them exactly what I was preaching to the non-Jews. I did this in private with the leaders, those held in esteem by the church, so that our concern would not become a controversial public issue, marred by ethnic tensions, exposing my years of work to denigration and endangering my present ministry. Significantly, Titus, non-Jewish though he was, was not required to be circumcised. While we were in conference we were infiltrated by spies pretending to be Christians, who slipped in to find out just how free true Christians are. Their ulterior motive was to reduce us to their brand of servitude. We didn't give them the time of day. We were determined to preserve the truth of the Message for you. ⁶⁻¹⁰As for those who were considered important in the church, their reputation doesn't concern me. God isn't impressed with mere appearances, and neither am I. And of course these leaders were able to add nothing to the message I had been preaching. It was soon evident that God had entrusted me with the same message to the non-Jews as Peter had been preaching to the Jews. Recognizing that my calling had been given by God, James, Peter, and John—the pillars of the church—shook hands with me and Barnabas, assigning us to a ministry to the non-Jews, while they continued to be responsible for reaching out to the Jews. The only additional thing they asked was that we remember the poor, and I was already eager to do that.

Think:

How many Churches are there in your town? One, two, three, loads? Do some Churches think they are better than others? Does your youth group think it's better than the one in that Church down the road? Hey, lets be real about this, maybe it is. Maybe God has blessed you with a great leader who can communicate Gods love in a way you and your mates enjoy and learn from. That just means that your youth group has been given great gifts and skills. God says for those have been given many gifts and skills, then He expects a great deal from them. In this passage Paul and his church group have met Peter and his Church group. Once they worked out they believe the same fundamental things they realised they should work together. It was pretty simple really. Paul and Peter's conversation would have gone like this. Paul says "Do you believe Christ died for our sins?" Peter replies "Err Yes." Peter says "Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to Heaven?" Paul Responds "Of Course." Once that was done they didn't argue over who they should speak to, or which was the more trendy way to speak about Jesus. They didn't spend years designing their website, or putting a band together, they got on with the job in-hand, together. So how is that youth group down the road doing? How about you make the first move and invite them up to you?

Pray:

Thank you Father for my youth group. Please help me join with others and work together to spread the word about you. Amen.

Action:

Think you are the only young Christians around? Chances are that you not. Make contact this week and invite some other guys along to your place. Bye.