**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 6 – SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

I Don’t Want to Offend Anyone.

**Key Verse(s):** Galatians 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

A logo of a book

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Summary of the Biblical Event**

While Peter was faithfully ministering among the Gentile believers in Antioch, a group of Jewish Christians arrived from Jerusalem. Before they came, Peter freely ate and fellowshipped with Gentile believers as equals in Christ. However, when these men arrived, Peter withdrew from the Gentiles and separated himself, fearing what the Jews would think. His actions caused confusion and hypocrisy in the church, leading even Barnabas to follow his example. While Peter knew that there was no Biblical justification for his actions, he likely justified in his mind that he couldn’t offend these visiting Jews. Instead, he offended the believing Gentiles by treating them as second-class Christians. Paul, recognizing the seriousness of the situation, confronted Peter publicly and reminded him that salvation is by grace and not by the law, and salvation is available to both Jew and Gentile.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* We have only one Judge that we should fear as believers.
* Someone will always be ready to label you. Just do right!
* Peace is found in humility and truth, not through placating.
* Christian liberty will never demand bondage for others.
* Feeling bad is not the same as Holy Spirit conviction.
* He was motivated by a fear of being judged by his friends.
* He was likely afraid of being labeled a compromiser.
* He thought he would be able to avoid any conflict.
* He mistook their liberty as a justification for his hypocrisy.
* He likely was still struggling internally with feelings of guilt.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It weakens a believer’s boldness, causing either a hidden faith or a quieted voice.**

**Matthew 5:14–15** — “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.” **Romans 1:16**

**2. It brings believers under the bondage of others instead of under God’s Word.**

**Proverbs 29:25** — “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” **Galatians 1:10**

**3. It creates unbiblical fellowship between those who are unequally yoked.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14** — “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” **Ephesians 5:11**

**4. It avoids dealing with problems, leads to compromise, and confuses positions.**

**1 Kings 18:21** — “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.” **James 4:17**



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Acts 5:29 - “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* How much value do I give to peer pressure compared to God’s Word & His Spirit?
* Am I avoiding dealing with a challenging situation because of this excuse?

**Commitment:**

* I will be unwavering in speaking truth.
* I will avoid hypocrisy and seek to be consistent in my Christian walk.

What would have happened if Paul had ignored the situation?

Why did Paul confront Peter publicly instead of privately? Was he right?

What are present-day examples of how this excuse might be used?

Why is “not wanting to offend” often seen as a good motive, and how does this story challenge that assumption?

This thinking has two extremes. What’s the problem with the other side of it?