

**When Relationships Collide**  
**Lesson 4: Stand Your Ground**  
**Galatians 2:1-14**

*(Never compromise when the issue is a matter of biblical right and wrong)*

**Question: Have you ever drawn a line in the sand?**

**Galatians 2:1-5**

1 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

2 I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.

3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

4 This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

**Galatians 2:6-10**

6 As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message.

7 On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.

8 For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.

9 James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

**Galatians 6:11-14**

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.

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?"

### Application Questions

- How would you describe the freedom we have in Christ?
- Why was it significant that these men gave Paul their support and approval?
- How do you know whether you're standing your ground on biblical principles or personal preferences?
- What role does love play in how you stand your ground?

### Live It Out

- **Draw the line in the sand.** Determine your non-negotiables' and make sure they are consistent with biblical principles.
- **Practice what you preach.** If you're asking someone to live according to a biblical principle, be sure they can see it in your life.
- **Call others to stand with you.** Mentor and disciple someone else in embracing biblical teaching.

*The goal of any confrontation is to be redemptive. If truth is being compromised or ignored, we should do what is necessary to correct the situation. We should do this in a way that doesn't simply condemn the other persons actions, but instead, leads him or her back to the truth and a closer walk with Jesus Christ.*