

“They do not walk straightforwardly, according to the truth of the glad tidings”

Galatians 2:11-21. But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to [the] face, because he was to be condemned: for before that certain came from James, he ate with [those of] the nations; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing those of [the] circumcision; **and the rest of the Jews also played the same dissembling part with him; so that even Barnabas was carried away too by their dissimulation.** But when I saw that they do not walk straightforwardly, according to the truth of the glad tidings, I said to Peter before all, If thou, being a Jew, livest as the nations and not as the Jews, how dost thou compel the nations to Judaize? We, Jews by nature, and not sinners of [the] nations, but knowing that a man is not justified on the principle of works of law [nor] but by the faith of Jesus Christ, we also have believed on Christ Jesus, that we might be justified on the principle of [the] faith of Christ; and not of works of law; because on the principle of works of law no flesh shall be justified. Now if in seeking to be justified in Christ we also have been found sinners, then [is] Christ minister of sin? Far be the thought. For if the things I have thrown down, these I build again, I constitute myself a transgressor. For I, through law, have died to law, that I may live to God. I am crucified with Christ, and no longer live, I, but Christ lives in me; but [in] that I now live in flesh, I live by faith, the [faith] of the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness [is] by law, then Christ has died for nothing.

Paul distinguishes between the real Peter and the play-acting Peter, the Peter holding a mask in front of his face and pretending to be someone else (v. 13). The real Peter is the Peter who knows in his bones that in Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, God has created one new family of Jews and Gentiles together.