

**Title:** Fearful Hypocrisy

**Text:** Galatians 2:11-14

**Main Idea:** Do not play the hypocrite.

**Division Statements:**

**1. The fear of man leads to hypocrisy (vv. 11-12).**

Verse 12 says plainly that Peter “feared” those “who were of the circumcision”; and therefore, withdrew from eating with the Gentiles, when these men came to Antioch.

**2. Uncritically following the crowd leads to hypocrisy (v. 13).**

Verse 13, tells us that the rest of the Jews “played the hypocrite” with Peter. But even more amazingly to Paul, Barnabas “was carried away” in the same conduct. Carried away is συναπήχθη, a passive verb meaning to suffer oneself to be carried away together with (something that carries away), i. e. to yield or submit oneself to lowly things, conditions, employments, -- not to evade their power as one should.

**3. Legalistic tendencies lead to hypocrisy (v. 14).**

In verse 14, we see why it was so easy for Peter to fall into this particular form of hypocrisy. Legalistic tendencies were a well traveled path for him. But he had learned the fallacy of works righteousness (e.g. v. 16) and so therefore, he must resist this past tendency and be “straightforward about the truth” not only in words but in conduct as well.

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**Bridging From Text To Sermon**

**Textual Idea:** Paul describes a time when Peter fell into hypocrisy and he was forced to confront him.

**Sermon Proposition:** Do not play the hypocrite.

**Interrogative:** How do we avoid playing the hypocrite?

**Transition:** God reveals three motivational factors that can cause us to fall into hypocrisy.

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