

Series: *What Makes the Church Run Well* (Gal. 5:7)

The Protection That Makes the Church Run Well

Gal. 2:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Old distinctive sound of the truth of the gospel must always ring loud and clear.
- B. Old distinctive sound of the truth of the gospel can be taken from us.
 - 1. Judizers secretly worked to that end in Paul's day.
 - 2. A well-know preacher (Peter) wavered when chips were down.
- C. Old distinctive sound of truth of the gospel was protected then and can be now in certain ways:

Discussion

I. We Can Protect it by *Recognizing False Brethren* (2:4)

- A. Considering all genuine is naive and dangerous (v. 4; cf. 2 Cor. 11:26)
- B. Considering all genuine is all too common today.
 - 1. Ignores many warning (2 Tim. 2:2-4; 2 Pet. 2:1; Acts 20:28-30)
 - 2. Leads to accepting things in church would reject from outsiders.
- C. Considering brethren subject to error does not justify cynicism, but caution. (cf. 1 Thess. 5:19-22; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1)

II. We Can Protect it by *Resisting Disastrous Compromises* (2:5)

- A. Compromising one point of the truth of the gospel is out of the question.
 - 1. Does mean cannot compromise points of judgment and personal opinion (Jas. 3:17 NKJ)
 - 2. Ill: cannot not compromise in "mode" of baptism, but can on place for baptism.
- B. Compromising truth is Satan's most effective weapon.
 - 1. Draws little attention - just silently erodes truth away (1 Cor. 5:6,7)
 - 2. Make one happy with lesser of two evils.
 - 3. One can plow – if he will just look back (Lk 9:62)
- C. Compromising keeps one from giving all to the Lord (Mk. 12:30)
 - 1. Must be "unmoveable" (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - 2. Must refuse to offend in one point (Jas. 2:10; 2 Cor. 2:9)
 - 3. Must learn difference in stubbornness and firmness.

III. We Can Protect it by *Refraining from Personality Worship* (2:6)

- A. Paying more attention to *who* said it, than authority by which he said it.
- B. Paying more attention to personality, accomplishments, and abilities than content of preaching.

IV. We Can Protect it by *Realizing the Fickleness of Brethren*.

- A. Even strongest of brethren will disappoint at times (2:11-16)
- B. Even closest of brethren will turn on us at times (4:12-17)

Conclusion:

- A. We can protect the truth of the gospel, if:
 - 1. We will face reality about our brethren.
 - 2. We will deal realistically (firmly and kindly) with all brethren.
 - 3. We will seek to help all brethren rather than becoming bitter and quitting.
- B. We can protect the truth of the gospel by always preaching and obeying it ourselves.