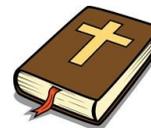


Sometimes Love for the Gospel of Christ Needs “Gumption”

What is “gumption” (guhmp-shuh n)? Well, 1) It is initiative; aggressiveness; resourcefulness: With his gumption he’ll influence others for Christ. 2) It is courage; spunk; *guts*: It takes gumption to stand for the truth. And 3) It is common sense; *shrewdness*.



Why did Paul oppose Peter “to his face”?

The apostle Paul spent most of his ministry trying to bring people together, in spite of their racial and cultural differences. He chastised “separating from one another” (Galatians 2:11-14). Peter was a great apostle of Christ, a veritable pillar of the church (Galatians 2:9), but at times he could be weak. He was acting like a hypocrite—and that is the precise meaning of the word “*dissimulation*” (Galatians 2:13).

Can you and I identify with the behavior of Peter or Paul?

Is our hope and desire for the church—the blood bought body of believers—to be united IN Christ? I believe it is. Our primary identity should come from being “IN Christ.” Are you IN Christ? Peter wrote to Christians: “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). Do we truly “see” people? Our race is “Christian.” Our nationality is “Christian.” Our people are “Christians.” When we learn to “see” this way, then we learn to identify primarily as someone who is “IN Christ,” and we will see others who are IN Christ as being our people, our group. God’s design for the church is all about togetherness, not segregation. We are an assembled family of faith—right? But what if we don’t assemble? Is our faith weak? We may actually be going about the task of togetherness in a very unkind way. We may need to be withstood!

Paul’s opposition to Peter’s activity was straightforward: “I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed” (Galatians 2:11). The word “*blamed*” in the text is “*kataginosko*” and it means “to note against, that is, *find fault with: —blame, condemn.*” Please make a note in the margin of your Bible—a *child of God can be condemned*. Paul did not hesitate to rebuke Peter. He was to blame. If he did not repent (a change of heart that leads to a change in action), he would remain condemned. Thankfully, Peter did repent. When we sin, we can too!

Please understand the severity of pursuing segregation within the body of Christ. It is anathema to the desire of God for His children. Besides entering into humanity to fulfill the Law perfectly, Jesus Christ manifested signs, miracles, and wonders to demonstrate His power and compassion for people. In addition, one of the reasons Jesus came was to show us “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female” (Galatians 3:28). Prior to this verse we read “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

Here’s my “gumption” statement...Have you put on Christ? Yes or no. It’s that simple. When we make the claim to be one faithful family of His people. Are we? Sometimes love for the gospel of Christ needs “gumption”—got it?



Need a key to the building? Please speak with Delbert Clountz. Thanks!

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

Ice Cream Supper: TODAY (8/4) after PM services... *yumminess!*

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM; we are studying New Testament commands that apply today...

NMCCH: We are waiting to hear of the next item to gather.