

# Equal Partners

## Galatians 2:1-10

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

July 15, 2018

### Introduction

- The “Soup Boys” and “Aunt Kitty’s Soup”
- What makes partners equal?
- Judaizers viewed Paul as a “Junior Partner” with the Jerusalem apostles.

### **Equal Partners! As an equal partner, Paul....**

#### **A. Preached the same MESSAGE —2:1-6**

1. Did not compel Titus, a Gentile, to be circumcised.
2. *“added nothing to”* Paul’s message

#### **B. Had an “Equal-partner’s” MIND-SET— 2:6-9**

1. Paul’s unusual reference to the Big Three?
  - a. Was Paul expressing his frustration with them for not dealing with the Judaizer false teaching?
  - b. Was Paul describing the apostles, using the exaggerated views of the Judaizers and the believers in Galatia?
2. Human tendency to elevate others, putting them on pedestals.
3. Paul refused to put the apostles on pedestals—*“whatever they were — it makes no difference to me.”*
  - a. Paul knew that he is what he is only by God’s grace!—1 Tim. 1:12-15; 1 Corinthians 15:8-10
  - b. Paul considered himself an equal—2 Corinthians 11:5
4. Paul appeals to God’s mindset—no favorites! Galatians 2:6
5. We need to adopt the same mindset—Romans 12:3-6a

#### **C. On the same MISSION, yet distinct SPHERES— 2:7-10**

1. At their meeting, the Jerusalem apostles...
  - a. Noted that the *“gospel for the uncircumcised”* was committed to Paul and the *“gospel for the circumcised”* was to Peter.
  - b. Noted that Paul was empowered by the Spirit of God
  - c. Gave to Paul and Barnabas *“the right hand of fellowship”*
2. Unity and yet Diversity
  - a. The Great Commission given to all—Matt. 28; Acts 1:8
  - b. Division in the work of sharing the gospel.
    - 1) Peter as the “apostle to the Jews”
    - 2) Paul as the “apostle to the Gentiles”
  - c. Unity in the care for the physical needs in the body—2:10
    - 1) Taking care of the poor demonstrates genuine faith and love. 1 John 3:17-18; James 2:15-17
    - 2) Tangible way of demonstrating unity of the body
    - 3) Paul’s eagerness to collect money for needs