LESSON THIRTEEN - A Lesson on Consistency

**Overview**

Peter had been used by God to bring the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles, and now he freely fellowshipped with them

as fellow believers. But when the unbelieving Jews came around, Peter feared their disapproval to the point of turning

his back on the Gentile Christians. Peter's two-faced actions influenced the behavior of the Jewish Christians as well. Paul administered a stern and public rebuke to Peter.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that peer pressure is a powerful force that can lead to great harm.

2. Realize that God's Word should be the source of all attitudes and actions.

3. Choose always to exercise the power of influence in a positive way.

**Teaching Outline**

**1. Peter Being Cooperative**

A. His evangelization of the Gentiles

B. His explanation to the Jews

**2. Peter Being Contrary**

A. He left the Gentiles alone.

B. He led the Jews astray.

**3. Peter Being Corrected**

A. Paul's rebuke

B. Peter's response

Text

**ACTS 10:1-48**

God uses Peter to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

**ACTS 11:1-18**

Peter explains God's workings to the apostles and others of the Jewish brethren.

**GALATIANS 2:11-14**

**11**But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29093a)]stood condemned. **12**For prior to the coming of certain men from [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29094b)]James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29094c)]the party of the circumcision. **13**The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. **14**But when I saw that they were not [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29096d)]straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29096e)]

**2 TIMOTHY 3:14 - 14**You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

**1 TIMOTHY 4:16 - 6**Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+4%3A16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29764a)]ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

**ACTS 10:10-16 - 10**But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; **11**and he \*saw the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27271a)]sky opened up, and an [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27271b)]object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, **12**and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27272c)]crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27272d)]air.**13**A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27273e)]kill and eat!” **14**But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27274f)]unholy and unclean.” **15**Again a voice *came* to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27275g)]unholy.” **16**This happened three times, and immediately the [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27276h)]object was taken up into the [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A10-16&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27276i)]sky.

**ROMANS 8:14 - 14**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**JOHN 6:44 - 44**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9 - 5**What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. **6**I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. **7**So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. **8**Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I+CORINTHIANS+3%3A5-9&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28419a)]reward according to his own labor. **9**For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I+CORINTHIANS+3%3A5-9&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28420b)]field, God’s building.

**ACTS 10:44-48 - 44**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A44-48&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27304a)]message. **45**All the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+10%3A44-48&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27305b)]circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**46**For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, **47**“Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?” **48**And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

**MARK 2:14-17 - Levi (Matthew) Called**

**14**As He passed by, He saw [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+2%3A14-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24275a)]Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He \*said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him. **15**And it \*[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+2%3A14-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24276b)]happened that He was reclining *at the table* in his house, and many tax collectors and [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+2%3A14-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24276c)]sinners [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+2%3A14-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24276d)]were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. **16**When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, “Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+2%3A14-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24277e)]sinners?” **17**And hearing *this*, Jesus \*said to them, “*It is*not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

**ROMANS3:10 - 10**as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one;

**ROMANS 3:23 - 23**for all [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=RoMANs3%3A23&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28015a)]have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**ROMANS 5:12 - 12**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

**ACTS 11:17-18 - 17**Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+11%3A17-18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27325a)]stand in God’s way?” **18**When they heard this, they [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+11%3A17-18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27326b)]quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life.”

**PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 - 9**For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10**so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11**and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**JOHN 3:16 -** 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should

not perish, but have everlasting life.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15 - 14**For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15**and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf

**GALATIANS 3:28 - 28**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+3%3A28&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29131a)]neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**GALATIANS 2:11-12 Peter (Cephas) Opposed by Paul**

**11**But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29093a)]stood condemned. **12**For prior to the coming of certain men from [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29094b)]James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A11-12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29094c)]the party of the circumcision.

**ACTS 15:30-35 - 30**So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+15%3A30-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27473a)]congregation together, they delivered the letter. **31**When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+15%3A30-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27474b)]encouragement. **32**Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+15%3A30-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27475c)]encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. **33**After they had spent time *there*, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out. **34**[[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+15%3A30-35&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27477d)]But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.] **35**But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.

**PROVERBS 29:25 -** The fear of man [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+29%3A25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-17250a)]brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7 - 7**For God has not given us a spirit of [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+TIMOTHY+1%3A7&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29817a)]timidity, but of power and love and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+TIMOTHY+1%3A7&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29817b)]discipline.

**EPHESIANS 4:27 - 27**and do not give the devil [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+4%3A27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29300a)]an opportunity.

**PSALM 32:8 -** I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**PSALM 37:23 -23**The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

**PROVERBS 3:5-6 -** Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

**PROVERBS 16:9 -** The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

**PROVERBS 6:16-19 - 16**There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+6%3A16-19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16557a)]to Him:

**17**Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, **18**A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that run rapidly to evil, **19**A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+6%3A16-19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16560b)]spreads strife among brothers.

**EPHESIANS 4:29 - 29**Let no [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+4%3A29&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29302a)]unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+4%3A29&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29302b)]according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

**TITUS 3:2 - 2**to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

**JAMES 3:2-10 - 2**For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+3%3A2-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30322a)]what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. **3**Now if we put the bits into the horses’ mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. **4**Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. **5**So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! **6**And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+3%3A2-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30326b)]life, and is set on fire by [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+3%3A2-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30326c)]hell. **7**For every [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+3%3A2-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30327d)]species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+3%3A2-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30327e)]race. **8**But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. **9**With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; **10**from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

**JAMES 4:11 - 11**Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*.

**JOHN 13:35 -**By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**LUKE 6:31 -** Treat others the same way you want [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE6%3A31&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25178b)]them to treat you.

**1 TIMOTHY 5:20 - 20**Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful *of sinning*.

**PROVERBS 27:5-6 -** Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed. **6**Faithful are the wounds of a friend,

But [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+27%3A5-6&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-17176a)]deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

**MATTHEW 18:15-17 - 15**“If your brother sins[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23743a)], go and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23743b)]show him his fault [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23743c)]in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. **16**But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23744d)]fact may be confirmed. **17**If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23745e)]a Gentile and [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+18%3A15-17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23745f)]a tax collector.

**GALATIANS 6:1 -** Brethren, even if [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A1&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29190a)]anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9 - 8**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+2%3A8-9&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29238a)]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9**not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**PROVERBS 1:5 -** A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

**PROVERBS 9:8 -** Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

**PROVERBS 12:1 -** Whoever loves [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+12%3A1&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16721a)]discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

**PROVERBS 15:10 -** Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates reproof will die.

**PROVERBS 15:12 -** A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, He will not go to the wise.

**1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 -** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE**

A wise man will hear and increase in learning,

And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

PROVERBS 1:5

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. When Peter came to Antioch, how did Paul address him? (GALATIANS 2:11)

2. Why was Paul upset with Peter? (GALATIANS 2:12)

3. Fill in the blanks: "Trust in the Lord with all your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ And do not lean on your own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **6**In all your ways \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, And He will make your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.(PROVERBS 3:5-6 )

4. What are the 7 things the Lord hates? (PROVERBS 6:16-19)

5. How will other know we are disciples of Christ? (JOHN 13:35)

6. Write out EPHESIANS 2:8-9.

7. Tell of a time in your life when peer pressure pushed you away from Christ.

8. Tell of a time when peer pressure has moved you closer to God.