

A WHOLE PART, AND PART OF THE WHOLE / *Galatians 2:1-10*

In the early chapters of Galatians, Paul conveyed both his *independence* as an apostle, called and commissioned by God, as well as his *solidarity* as he ministered with the other apostles. Paul's problems were not with the other apostles, but with those false teachers who sought to drive a wedge between Paul and the apostles.

Evidence of Independence:

Paul was not sent by human authority (1:1).

Paul claimed that his accountability was to God (1:10).

Paul's aim was to please God (1:10).

Paul's message was not derived from human sources, or reason, but by divine revelation (1:11).

Paul's conversion and subsequent ministry did not come as a result of consultations with anyone (1:16).

Paul took the initiative in contacting Peter (1:18).

Evidence of Solidarity:

By traveling with Barnabas and Titus, Paul demonstrated that he was unified with the Christian community. The fact that Barnabas was a Jew and Titus was a Greek showed that Paul could work with others and had support from key leaders in Asia (2:1).

Paul "placed his message on the table" for the other apostles to examine (2:2).

The rest of the apostles affirmed Paul's message to be the true gospel and his ministry to be directed to the Gentiles (2:7).

Jesus was clearly working through both Peter and Paul (2:8).

The apostolic band demonstrated their unity with Paul and Barnabas by publicly accepting them as co-workers. They were adding their endorsement to Christ's commission (2:9).

Later Paul lovingly confronted Peter as an equal about an inconsistency in Peter's behavior (2:14).