

Galatians 4:12-20

¹²Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. ¹³Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. ¹⁴And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. ¹⁶Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Galatians 4:12-20

¹⁷They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, ²⁰I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Reminder - All Scripture is given by inspiration, but the Holy Spirit uses men. He uses their styles and here, even relationships. Paul, given his relationship with the Galatians, was able to rebuke and encourage them.

- Love / charity - agape, not just a “touchy feeling,” or something we fall into and out of, but a decision we make. As we walk in the Spirit, we can operate in agape (1 Corinthians 13:3-4).
- This love is what moves the rebuke, and here in this passage the encouragement to stay true to the gospel.

Paul's Appeal To the Galatians

- Live free from compulsory pressure and empty legal observances. Paul knows from experience the emptiness and bondage of Jewish legalism.

“eye diseases were often disfiguring and their stench was nauseating. Most ancients, Jews included, considered this to be a form of divine judgment.”

– J. MacArthur

False Teacher's Motive

- Zealous - lit. to bubble, seethe, boil (SN 2204 root)
Here(2206) , to earnestly move in a desired direction. These false teachers are passionate about law.
- Exclude - to isolate the Galatians to their teachings only. The idea that “we are the only ones who are right.”

“Beware of that religious worker who wants your exclusive allegiance because he is the only one who is right. He will use you as long as he can and then drop you for somebody else. Your fall will be a painful one. The task of the Spiritual leader is to encourage people to love and follow Jesus, not to promote himself and his ministry...the false teacher will try to attract other men’s converts to himself and not to the truth the Word and the Person of Christ.”

– W. Wiersbe

Paul's Motive

- Paul wants to see the Galatians transformed into Christlikeness.
 1. Formed - *morphoo* changing, refers to the essential form rather than just outward appearance.
 2. True Christlikeness - this is NOT a certain piece of clothing, a hair cut, certain rules, etc. Not our current generations idea of what makes up "Christlikeness."
- True Christlikeness is learning and living the truth of Galatians 2:20, John 15:1-5, Galatians 5:16-25 (and others!). If you want to "look Christ like," learn what it means to live these out.