

Galatians 4:8-29

Don't IGNORE broken places

Galatians 4:8-11

*Before you Gentiles knew God, you were **slaves to so-called gods** that do not even exist. So now that **you know God** (or should I say, now that **God knows you**), why do **you want to go back** again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are **trying to earn favor** with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. **I fear for you**. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing.*

Celebrate good CHARACTER

Galatians 4:12-15

Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.

You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you. Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News. But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible.

Place a high value on HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Galatians 4:16-17

*Have I now become your enemy because **I am telling you the truth**? Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but **their intentions are not good**. They are **trying to shut you off** from me so that you will pay attention only to them.*

CONNECT before you CORRECT

Galatians 4:18-20

If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let

them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you. Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

Talk it over:

1. What are some of the character traits that you look for in people you really trust? How do you develop those things for yourself?
2. Why is it important and healthy to share our broken places as well as celebrating the growth of good character?
3. What are some of the ways you can recognize healthy relationships?
4. God promised to be "with us," why is being present so important in our faith?