

## Loving the Deceived

1. Paul's tone while speaking truth to the deceived.
  
2. Paul's appeal to their former relationship
  - A. It was centered on the truth of the Gospel. Galatians 4:13
  - B. There was mutual blessing.
    - a. The reception of Paul by the people Galatians 4:14
    - b. The joy brought by the preaching of the Gospel Galatians 4:15
  - C. They are his "children" for which he labors Galatians 4:19
  
3. Paul's desire for the Galatians
  - A. Unity Galatians 4:16
  - B. Protection Galatians 4:17
  - C. Freedom Galatians 5:1
  - D. Those ministering to them would seek the well being of the Galatians. Galatians 4:18
  
4. Paul speaks the truth in love Ephesians 4:14-16
  - A. Fighting against deception
  - B. Bringing them to maturity
  - C. Unifying for service
  - D. Strengthening love for Christ and one another

Galatians 4:12-20

April 21, 2024

What's the purpose of this section?

I think that Paul is making sure that they understand he loves them. He is bringing them into remembrance of the joy he brought them with the truth of the Gospel and the joy they brought him because of their love for him and acceptance of him as he was going through a difficult time.

What does it mean for the Galatians to become like Paul?

How had Paul become like them?

Paul declares that they had not injured him. And beyond that, instead they were an undeniable blessing to him. They heard him preach the Gospel because of his sickness (possibly only being in the "area" because of his sickness). The people of Galatia received him as a messenger of God, a blessing to them and did not allow his sickness to be something they despised or caused them to step back from him, or reject him. Their acceptance of him brought them great joy. Their love and acceptance was so much that they would have "plucked out their own eyes" for him. (Direct meaning unsure, but at least a way of saying they would have given to him selflessly, providing what he needed.) Now Paul asks them, have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

It seems that the harshness to Paul's tone is removed. I think he is setting an example for us to appeal to one another with truth, but also with grace. He humanizes both himself and the Galatians. This helps them see that their doctrinal differences don't make them enemies on a personal / individual level?

There is a difference between

\*\*\* I really have to think through this and do not want to give any leeway for accepting false teaching or not calling out false doctrines.

Mark 10:21 (Jesus loves the rich young ruler)

Galatians 4:12-20

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As I think about Jesus' interaction with sinners. It was very different between the teachers of lies and those who had "swallowed those lies."

Ephesians 3:14 - 16

We should no longer be tossed around by wrong teachings and deception

- Cunning craftiness
- Deceitful plotting
- Trickery of men

But instead we should speak the truth to one another in love that we will mature, being more Christlike and submitting to the authority of Jesus, as He empowers the church to work together to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is building the Church, the body of Christ, strengthening it in love for Him and for one another.

Love is the critical component: Love for God and love for others.

## Galatians 4:12-20

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### Galatians 4:8

Before becoming children of God, knowing Him, the people of Galatia were slaves to “other gods.”

What does it mean to be a slave?

### Galatians 4:9

Not only do you know God, but more importantly He is in relationship with you. It is not a one sided situation, He desires you and accepts you as His child. This is to be known by God, to be acknowledged, approved, accepted, specifically as His child! This is an example of God being a personal God.

If you have this understanding, relationship, how could you turn back to weak, worthless, and elemental things? To do this, is to desire to be enslaved again!

4:10

## Galatians 4:12-20

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Days, months, season, and years are not being observed...presumably this would be from the Mosaic Law....because know where else in the letter do we have the idea that they are turning back to idols and pagan worship specifically.

However, Paul equates their turning to the Mosaic Law as turning back to pagan idol worship! How can this be? These laws are from God.

What separates the Christianity from other forms of religion?

1. The identity of Jesus.
2. Salvation is by grace through faith (NO WORKS)
3. Scripture as the only Book

For the Galatians to move away from the Gospel of Jesus to the gospel of the Judaizers was to be as far away from salvation as when they were pagans.

4:11

Because of this, Paul was in fear that his work among them was a waste of time.

Do we earn the love of God?

What is a slave?

1. A person who is forced to work for and obey another and is considered to be their property
2. A person who works very hard without proper enumeration and appreciation
3. A person who is excessively dependent upon or controlled by something

\*\* Not self governing

To be obedient to the commands of Scripture in a way that

1. Elevates you
2. Is full of burden rather than joy

Is to enslave yourself to the commands instead of to God. It is to miss the point of Jesus.

3. Obey to please not to get rewarded????

Galatians 4:1

- While the heir is a child, he is no different than a servant, even though his position is that of master of the servants.
  - Positionally: master

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- Experientially: servant (The law playing a role in this)

Galatians 4:2

- The child is under the control of the the servants, guardians and stewards, until the father appoints a time for the child's experience to match that of his position.

Galatians 4:3

- ?????? We were just like that as well, being under the bondage of the basic principles of religion.

Galatians 4:4

- God the Father, ordains that it is time for all those who are children and are infants in their understanding, should be appointed as moving from children under a servants to mature children who have been adopted into the family

Galatians 4:5

- This adoption, bringing the children to maturity, costs the Father as He gave Jesus for a sacrifice. This redemption is how we are able to be adopted as children of God!

Galatians 4:6

- Because we are sons, the Spirit of God is in us crying out to God as Abba, Father.

Galatians 4:7

- The Holy Spirit gives testimony to the fact that we are no longer slaves, but instead are sons of God, becoming heirs of God!

Galatians 4:8

You were once slaves to worldly things, religious, political, philosophical, etc.

Now that you have the full experience of being children of God, do not turn back to another form of slavery. These things are weak and worthless, since you have become adopted and matured.

Now I say as long as the heir (this is the heir of the promise from 3:29) is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is the owner of everything. But, he is under guardians and managers (the Law) until the date set by the father (this seems answered in verse 4 "fullness of time). So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,

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born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive adoption as sons.

Jesus' work moves us from slaves to sons! A fuller, richer, experience of following Jesus... participating in the New Covenant, being released from the Mosaic Covenant

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba! Father! Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if a son, then an heir through God.