



GALATIANS *free*

## Galatians 4:8-20

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? <sup>10</sup> You observe days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

<sup>12</sup> Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. <sup>13</sup> You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, <sup>14</sup> and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.



<sup>16</sup> Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

<sup>17</sup> They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. <sup>18</sup> It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, <sup>19</sup> my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! <sup>20</sup> I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.



# Living Divided

## Culturally & Socially

4:8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

Today's "god" is self:  
Self-Fulfillment  
Self-Satisfaction  
Self-Autonomy

# Living Divided

Spiritually:  
From Each Other

Christian vs. Non-Christian

Christian vs. Christian

<sup>9</sup> But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

<sup>16</sup> Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

# Living Divided

Spiritually:  
From God

Speaking mainly to “church people”

<sup>10</sup> You observe  
days and months  
and seasons and  
years!

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.



# Living United

<sup>12</sup> Brothers, I entreat you,  
become as I am, for I also have become as you are.

## Incarnational Ministry: Method

- Start where you are
  - Engage and Listen
- “Seek first to understand”
  - People, not projects

# Living United

<sup>12</sup> Brothers, I entreat you,  
become as I am, for I also have become as you are.

## Incarnational Ministry: Message

- Freedom and Love
- Personal and Practical

We typically fail on either side of this fence:

- 1) "become as you are", but without the message
- 2) Avoid the relationship, but tell others to "be like me"

# Living United

2 Corinthians 5:16

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.

Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and ***gave us the ministry of reconciliation***; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>

Therefore, we are ***ambassadors*** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Being United

<sup>19</sup> my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace

Romans 5:1  
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Being United

Jesus is God Incarnate; God made Flesh.

He became one of us in order to bring us back home.

On the cross he was divided from the Father in order to unite us with Him forever.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

*free*