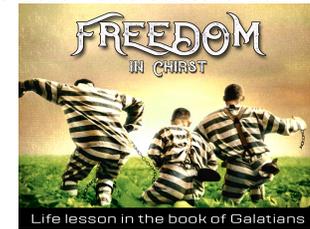


Notes:

Sierra Community Church March 5th 2023 Part 9 Galatians- Dan Wilvers



Caring Enough to Tell the Truth Galatians 4:8-20

Community Group Questions:

1. Being “approachable” was Paul’s secret weapon to win people for Christ. What ways are you “*flexible*” toward others?
2. What struggles slow you in your desire to speak truth, lovingly to misguided believers? Rejection? Confrontation? A lack of verbal skill to explain your position? Something else?
3. Explain from your own experience how the Gospel humbles and simultaneously emboldens you to care enough to speak up.
4. How does C.S. Lewis quote about guarding your heart from breaking, direct you to take more risks with your heart?
5. What thoughts help you to overcome the heart break of rejection when you have spoken up and tried to win over a believer who has gone astray, and won’t hear you?

⁸ Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. ⁹ 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? ¹⁰ You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. ¹¹ I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing.

¹² I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. ¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴ Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

¹⁵ What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.

¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. ¹⁹ My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

The Word of God

Only through the gospel can you be both bold and humble at the same time.

1. "... I became like you."

"... brothers, become like me, for I became like you." Galatians 4:12

This is a way of saying he became flexible. He was adaptable.

"To the Jews I became as a Jew. To the Greeks I became as a Greek. To those outside I became as one outside. To those inside I became as one inside. To the weak I became weak. I became all things to all that I might by all means win some."

1 Corinthians 9:20-22

Paul says a person whose life has been transformed by the gospel unyielding about the centrality of the gospel but is incredibly yielding and flexible about everything else. **Tim Keller**

2. "...become like me."

"... brothers, become like me, for I became like you." Galatians 4:12

Jesus example: (Jesus), being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:6,7

To become like Paul, he is saying;

1. *I am not going to let you stay the way you are.*
2. *I have come to embody the kind of life I want you to live.*

Here's the theme of the whole book of Galatians:

If you believe you're saved by grace, believe though you're a sinner, that when you have faith in Christ. He absolutely gives you a righteousness, you cannot obtain on your own.

That will humble you

But because you're absolutely accepted in his sight and loved even though you're a sinner. **That will embolden you.**

Paul uses a weird analogy.

¹⁹ My dear children, for whom *I am again in the pains of childbirth* until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! Galatians 4: 19,20

Interesting language for a guy? *I am again in the pains of childbirth...*

Here's what Paul is getting at... *As a parent, if your kids are unhappy, it's almost impossible to be happy because your heart is bound up with them. This is what Paul is saying.*

For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord...

1 Thessalonians 3:8

It explains so much about the emotion pastors or Christian leaders have felt over the years, in some capacity it's like becoming a mom. *Your heart goes out to your kids.*

The point? *If you want to be an agent of change in people's lives, you will lose heart when you're rejected. It's that simple. It's part of the challenge of leading people.*

Don't forget what C.S. Lewis said.

If you don't want your heart broken, don't give it. Wrap it up in a casket of selfishness, and in that casket it will stay. It will not be broken. It will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.