

Paul's Personal Walk with Christ: Freedom from the Law in the Spirit

Galatians 4:12-20 / September 3, 2022

Paul's Positive Example for Living in the Spirit 4:12-14

1. Paul modeled freedom from the law as the Galatians modeled freedom for Paul

Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. (4:12a)

Become as I that I also as you brothers I implore you

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

- To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews.
- To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.
- To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.
- To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23, ESV)

2. The Galatians accepted Paul as an Apostle from God in spite of his physical disease/suffering

You did me no wrong. You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 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. (12b-14)

3. The Galatians were willing to suffer for Paul

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. (2:15)

The Galatian's Negative Response to Paul for Living in the Spirit

1. The Galatians now treated Paul as an enemy for confronting them about abandoning Jesus

Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? (4:16) *(Turning away they are making Paul an enemy, not a friend)*

2. The Galatians were listening to the false teachers, not to Paul

They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, (4:17-18)

3. Paul Anguished Over the Galatians

my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. (4:19-20)