
Finding Freedom: A Study In Galatians

“Relationships Matter”

Galatians 4:8-31

05-15-22

Introduction: As we return to our study, Paul is confronting the error of the Galatians.

1. They had been pressured into a false gospel that merged law & grace.
2. In his challenge, Paul has appealed to their experience in Christ, explained justification by faith alone & the role the law had played in God’s plan.
3. In today’s text he focuses on his relationship with them.
4. It is crucial we understand how important relationships are in our personal spiritual journeys.
5. It is possible to become a Christians through an impersonal means. However, the reality is most of us became Christians because of a personal relationship. Spiritual growth requires personal relationships.
6. Paul was a key person in Galatia.
7. As they struggle, he struggles. Although it is a difficult conversation, he confronts them with truth.
8. As we work through our text, we can learn some valuable lessons. Healthy relationships are characterized by:

I. Genuine Concern (8-11)

A. Their Past

B. Their Present

C. Paul’s Fear

II. Open & Honest (12-16)

A. Paul’s Feelings

B. Paul’s Question

III. Clarity (17-20)

A. The Judaizers Motivation

B. Paul’s Commitment

IV. Scripture (21-31)

A. Hagar/Ishmael: Mosaic Covenant (Law)

B. Sarah/Isaac: Abrahamic Covenant (Faith)

Conclusion: There is a lot of truth here & truth always matters, but so do relationships.

1. In the context of a healthy relationship, truth is more likely to be received.
2. That means we would be wise to cultivate the kind of relationship Paul had with the Galatians.
3. As we do, we will be able to handle the truth when the truth is uncomfortable.