

A Friend's Plea

Pastor Josh Whitney
(josh@trc.life)

Galatians 4:12-20

12 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 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. 15 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. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. 18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! 20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

1. God uses everything, including our _____.

2. Do we avoid those who are suffering, or do we face their _____ with them?

3. We must not _____ people who correct us!

4. A good friend doesn't use people to _____ themselves up.

5. The goal of a _____ is to help people become like Jesus.

6. May we all be a good friend like _____.

Verses on Sanctification: John 17:17, Col. 1:28, 1 Cor. 6:11, 1 Thess. 4:3, 5:23, Phil. 1:6, Hebrews 10:14

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your biggest takeaway from these verses?
2. What is a challenging situation in your life where you see God working? (Gal 4:13)
3. Do we avoid those who are suffering, or do we face difficulties with them? Why? (Gal. 4:14)
4. Have you ever faced a situation where speaking truth in love led to conflict or misunderstanding in your own life? How did you handle it? (Gal. 4:16)
5. How can we cultivate more authentic relationships in our church? (Gal. 4:12-20)
6. What does this section of verses teach us about the role of genuine care and affection in spiritual leadership? (Gal. 4:12-20)
7. Pray for each other.

Next Week's Message: Galatians 4:21-31