

Galatians 4:12-20 — The Pastor and the Congregation

Warm-Up Question:

Share some of the ways you've experienced blessing or hurt, spiritual growth or spiritual pain from pastors in your past church experience.

READ: Galatians 4:12-20

I. The Pastor and the Congregation: MUTUAL GOSPEL AFFECTION

- ▶ Name the ways you see Paul's heart for these Christians in Galatia. Read 1 Thes 2:7-8 (in the right column) and point out more ways.
- ▶ How do you see a mutual affection from the Galatians?

II. The Pastor and the Congregation: TELLING THE TRUTH

- ▶ Paul says in v. 16 that he told them the truth. Discuss some ways Paul had told them the truth (through the book), & explain how it was loving for him to do so.
- ▶ Eph. 4:15 says one way we "grow up in to Christ" is by speaking the truth in love. Does your life group (or family) err more on speaking truth without love or loving well without speaking hard truths? How could you grow in the balance?
- ▶ What do you think it means for "Christ to be formed" in someone? (Note: "Formed" here means to be shaped or take the appearance)
- ▶ V. 15 & 19 describe how Paul suffered internally and externally so that "Christ would be formed" in them. Read 1 Cor. 2:1-6 and 2 Cor. 12:9-10 and discuss how and why God often prefers to use us through our weaknesses.
- ▶ How have you seen God use your weaknesses or times of suffering to encourage or impact others? How do you think that might have helped "Christ be formed" in someone else?
- ▶ What's one way you want to grow in helping your spouse or someone in your life group "grow up in Christ" so that "Christ is formed" in them?

1Th. 2:5-12 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. **6**

Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. **7** But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. **8** So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. **11** For you know how, like a father with his children, **12** we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

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