

Study Guide for January 20th, 2002. Galatians 4:12-20: Relationships . . . Relationships

1. Healthy churches grow in the context of healthy relationships between a church's leaders and the people who form that church. Describe a positive example where you have seen this to be true.
2. Paul's Appeal: Gal. 4:12
 - A. What do you think Paul means when he says, "Become like me?" (see Acts 26:28-29, I Cor. 11:1)
 - B. What do you think Paul means when he explains, "I became like you?" (see I Cor. 9:20-22)
 - C. What does Paul's example here teach us about effective evangelism?
3. The Galatians' Relationship to Paul: Gal. 4:13-16
 - A. The Circumstances:
 - 1) What circumstances initially led Paul to the Galatians so that he was able to preach the gospel to them? (see also II Cor. 12:7 for another use of the same term)
 - 2) Has God ever used an **illness** in your life to put you in a position where you could witness?
 - B. The Initial Reception:
 - 1) How were the Galatians initially tempted to treat Paul? Why?
 - 2) How did the Galatians actually receive Paul? Was this appropriate? Why or why not?
 - C. The Current Attitude:
 - 1) Summarize the attitude of the Galatians toward Paul now as he is writing the letter? Why do you think it has changed from their initial reception?
 - 2) When have you reacted negatively to someone who was telling you the truth? What had to happen before your attitude changed?
4. Paul's Relationship with the Galatians: Gal. 4:17-20
 - A. How does Paul describe the approach and motives of the false teachers with the Galatians?
 - B. What term does Paul use to address the Galatians? What tone is communicated by these verses?
 - C. What do you think Paul had in mind when he spoke of "Christ formed in you" to the Galatians?
5. Applying the Truth to our Relationships: In light of what you've studied in this passage complete the following sentences . . .
 - A. A congregation which keeps its eyes on Christ will . . .
 - B. A pastor who keeps his eyes on Christ will . . .