

CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

Gal 4:12-21

INTRODUCTION

- A. God's people are often spoken of as children
 - 1. Must become as a child to enter the kingdom
Matt 18:1-3
 - 2. Jesus addressed disciples as children Jhn 13:33
- B. In this text the word "children" shows tender affection as an earthly father for his child - Read text (v 17 from nasb95)
 - 1. Paul was rebuking the Galatians for their wrong doing
Gal 1:6
 - 2. He wanted them to see his interest in them as a father for his child
 - 3. They Would be more inclined to receive instructions
 - 4. Zealously affect = to seek to draw over to one's side; to desire one earnestly; to strive after

DISCUSSION:

I. REASONS FOR PAUL'S ANXIETY

- A. I stand in doubt of you I am afraid of you V.11
- B. Why was Paul afraid of them? (doubt = perplexed; at a loss as to what to think about them)
 - 1. They observed days, months, years V.10
 - 2. They desired to be under the law vs 21
 - a. Dissatisfied with sacrifice of Christ
 - b. Disregard for His authority

II. OBJECT OF PAUL'S ANXIETY

- A. That Christ may be formed in you v.19 ("formed" not external or transient, but inward or real)
- B. After conversion we must strive to grow more like Christ - The characteristics of Christ must be in us

III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CHRIST TO BE IN US?

- A. Christ must reign in our hearts
 - 1. To reign means to dominate as a king reigns over his subjects
 - 2. Christ must have complete control over our lives
- B. To accomplish this we must receive his doctrine
Jhn 15:7
 - 1. Many see no need for study of the scriptures
2Tim 2:15

- 2. Christ had not been formed in them - they were not fully converted to Christ

- C. We must imbibe the spirit of Christ Phil 2:5-8
 - 1. These Galatians had been baptized Gal 3:26, 27 but Christ was not strong in them
 - 2. We are not full grown after birth - characteristics of Christ must be cultivated in us

IV. HOW IS CHRIST FORMED IN US?

- A. It takes time for growth
 - 1. A child takes on more physical characteristics of its parents as it grows to maturity.
 - 2. We grow and mature by the word 1Pet 2:2
- B. Christ is formed in us as we grow up in Him
Eph 4:13-15
 - 1. when we grow up - are formed in Him, We are not tossed about by every wind of doctrine
 - 2. We are mature enough to stand in the face of opposition
- C. Christ is formed in us as we grow in grace 2Pet 3:18 as we add the Christian graces 2Pet 1:5-10

CONCLUSION:

- A. Has Christ been formed in you?
 - 1. He stands at the door and knocks Rev 3:20
 - 2. Are you willing to let him come in?
- B. If you have obeyed the gospel
 - 1. Are you acting like a mature grown-up Christian
 - 2. Are the characteristics of Christ showing in your life?