

## LISTENING WHEN IT HURTS Galatians 4:8-20

Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.

Winston Churchill

### Enslaved - Changing owners is still slavery (Galatians 4:8-11)

The key to relationship

Knowers of God – Brought into the family by grace

Known by God – It wasn't an accident

When actions, customs, habits, or disciplines become markers of holiness, we're really just changing one slave owner for another.

### Enraged – at a friend willing to speak the hard truth (Galatians 4:12-16)

Paul's entrance into Galatia was not a psychological ploy or an evangelistic strategy; it was a theological necessity.

As Galatians were turning their backs on Paul, they turned on mutual friendship based on total acceptance and caring relationship.

When we refuse to hear the uncomfortable words from a friend,

- Friends are perceived as enemies
- Relationships and spiritual input are ignored and people who care are villainized
- Affirming words are sought in place of correcting principles

### Enchanted by treacherous “guides” (Galatians 4:6-7)

When zeal isn't enough

The ultimate desire of a godly mentor – a life centered on Christ; not on the mentor.