



What Are You Passionate About?

By Jeff Bedwell on March 10, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Galatians 4

As we read this chapter in Galatians today, let's zoom out to get the big picture before we zoom in to one section. Paul's letter to the Galatians has been called "the Magna Carta of Christian liberty." It is Paul's manifesto of justification by faith and the resulting liberty that is ours in Christ Jesus. The oppressive teaching of some Jewish leaders had been causing the new believers in Galatia to trade their freedom in Christ for bondage to the Law. Paul writes this forceful letter to do away with the "false gospel" of works and demonstrate the superiority of justification by faith.

In this fourth chapter of Galatians, Paul concludes the second major section of his letter. Having defended the authenticity of his apostleship in chapters 1 and 2, in chapters 3 and 4 Paul defends the content of the gospel. Paul ties together a series of arguments to prove that the gospel of grace is superior to the gospel of the law. This is the big picture context.

Zooming in, Paul gives us a glimpse of his heart's desire for the Galatians who have become so dear to him, "*my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!*" (Galatians 4:19, ESV). The key word here is *formed*, which refers to God shaping us. Spiritual formation has been described as the process by which our inner person or spirits are given a definite "form" or character.

"Spiritual formation for the Christ-follower" refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ Himself. Inevitably over time, this inner transformation will show forth in outward behaviors as well.

More than anything, Paul wanted them to be like Christ. This is the freedom that Paul is talking about—Christ shaping us, molding us, changing us and forming us into His image so we might be liberated to experience life in Him, for Him, through Him, by Him and with Him!

Is this your passion for your own life? Is this the passion you have for others you love and care about? Is this the passion we have together as a church family?

We are all being "spiritually formed" every day by someone or something. We never stand still. How are you ordering your life to make sure you are being conformed to the image and character of Jesus Christ? How are you investing in the lives of others to help them to be formed from the inside out into Christlikeness?

PRAYER: Father, help me desire to be formed and shaped in conformity to Christ. Show me how to order my life in such a way that I fully cooperate with Your formation of Christ in me.

Show me how to invest my life in the lives of others so they too may have Christ formed in them.

TOMORROW'S READING: Galatians 5

Copyright © 2022 First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC, All rights reserved.

[Visit our website](#)

First Baptist Church | (803)547-2051 | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715 | [fbcfm.com](#)

First Baptist Church Fort Mill | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fbcfortmill@comporium.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!