

How did I become your Enemy? Galatians 4:16

Most of us at some point or another have incidents happen in our life that damages our fellowship with other Christians. When the error is exposed we may find ourselves hiding our head in the sand and pretending the incident never happened rather than repairing the damage. Said Christian will avoid talking to the individual who has exposed their sin because they just simply do not want to deal with the situation. The apostle Paul would not let the Galatians put him in a corner and forget him once they had fallen in sin. Paul recalled their former days together when they enjoyed sound Bible teaching and shared in a mutual spiritual fellowship together. The Galatians did not care that Paul had a serious physical ailment in his eyes, they “*received him as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus*” (Gal. 4:14). What had happened to their relationship? Paul asks, “*So then am I become your enemy, by telling you the truth?*” (Gal. 4:16). Apparently the Galatians had been guilty of putting Paul in a neat little corner (out of site out of mind). Paul had exposed their sins and the false teachers that were leading them astray (Gal. 4:17). This type of preaching was unacceptable in the minds of some of the brethren. How long would such a situation go on if it happened to us? Will we allow others to be considered our enemies simply because they have called into question our teaching or practice?

What if you were found in error and I exposed it. What would your response be? Would you be angry? Would you be willing to study about it? What if we did not settle the matter the first few discussions, do we give up on each other and go on living as we are? There are four possibilities in such a situation. First, we are both wrong and should repent to the Lord over our quibbles in matters of indifference. Secondly, we may both be right but just have not talked about the subject enough to find out really where the other is coming from. Thirdly, I may be the one who is right in this disagreement and you may be wrong. Fourthly, you may be right and I am the one in the wrong. How shall we settle this? Should we continue in our silence? Should we continue to shun each other? Why not let the standard (God’s Word) settle the matter and get back to enjoying our friendship and blessings of spiritual fellowship? More importantly, why don’t we settle the matter so that our souls will be right with God?

How can we solve the issue that is now dividing us? We can use no other rule than the teaching of Jesus Christ (II Jn. 9-11). I have no right, nor do you, to be angry when my teaching is put to the test (cf. I Jn. 4:1, 6). As the apostle Paul called upon the Galatians to repent and return to the fellowship of Jesus Christ so I call upon you to do the same thing. If I am wrong then prove it. Until that day I will continue to resist you to the face because you stand condemned (cf. Gal. 2:11). If the condemnation rest upon my soul for my teaching then I fully expect you to continue to resist me to the face. Where there is no communication between us; however, there is no resisting. Let us no longer sweep our differences under the rug of apathy but rather love each other and communicate before its everlasting to late.

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