

LESSON 4
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE
GALATIANS 3:24—4:31



1 Who are the most difficult people to love? Why?



Read Galatians 3:24—4:31 and the following notes:

☐ 3:24, 25 ☐ 3:28 ☐ 4:3–7 ☐ 4:5–7 ☐ 4:15 ☐ 4:17 ☐ 4:19

2 What does it mean to be “true children of Abraham” (3:29)?

3 What important qualities of spiritual fatherhood and brotherhood does Paul show us in this passage (4:8–20)?

4 In spite of Paul's often harsh words, what evidence do you see in this passage of his genuine love for the Galatian believers?

5 What benefits and responsibilities do believers have as God's children that they didn't have before coming to know him?



Paul had every right to be angry with the Galatian Christians. They had turned away from the truth that he had worked so hard to teach them and had returned to the empty religion that had formerly enslaved them and robbed them of so much joy. But Paul cared enough about them to grieve over their condition. He was their brother because he too was one of God's adopted sons, and he was their father because he had led many of them to Christ. Paul's great love made it impossible for him to turn his back on them or to act selfishly to further his own ends. That kind of love could come only from God. And because God loves us, we should keep loving others even when they let us down.

6 In what ways might other Christians disappoint us?



7 Why is it difficult to find unconditional love practiced in the church? How might we encourage believers to care unselfishly for each other?

8 How might telling the truth to a person cause him or her to become one's enemy? How might telling the truth cause people to turn against their friends?

9 How can you tell whether someone truly wants what is best for you and is not acting out of selfish motives?

10 What excuses do we often give for withdrawing our love from others when they backslide in their Christian lives?

11 Who has cared enough for you to keep loving you through a difficult time? Find an opportunity soon to thank that person for his or her unselfish love.



12 Who do you feel is letting you down right now? How can you remember to keep on loving and caring for that person?

A What does it mean to be “united with Christ in baptism” (3:27)? What does it mean to have been “made like him [Christ]” (3:27)?

B What does it mean that Christ came at “the right time”? Why is it so difficult for us to wait for God’s timing?

C How does the story of Abraham’s two sons add to Paul’s earlier arguments regarding the nature of the law and of God’s grace? Why might this be especially meaningful to the Galatians? What does it mean to you?

D What were the certain days and months that were being observed? How does this relate to special days and seasons, such as Lent, in the Christian church?

E Paul said that he was in labor pains until “Christ is fully developed in your lives” (4:19). What does this mean for us? When is the process complete?

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