

# Have I Become Your Enemy By Telling You The Truth? - Galatians 4.16

Sunday AM 01/23/22

## Introduction:

Important question asked by Paul. Was it rhetorical? Who would say yes and if they did, what did it say about them? We know relationships to have been damaged because someone gave a truthful answer. Does this dress make me look fat? Do you think I am rude? Or, who's prettier?

### I) Background from Acts 13 & 14

#### A) Paul and Barnabas leave Antioch on their first missionary journey.

1. They go to the Roman province of Galatia.

*“Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. **14** But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down” Acts 13:13-14*

2. Antioch of Pisidia, **Acts 13.14-51.**

- a. Key passages

*“So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.” Acts 13:42*

*“**48** Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” Acts 13:48*

- b. Largely a Gentile congregation as the Jews rejected the Gospel.

3. Iconium, **Acts 14.1-6** not well received by them.

4. Lystra, **Acts 14.8-20**

- a. Wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas.

*“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ **12** And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. **13** Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes **Acts 14:11-13***

- b. Paul stopped them, **vv. 11-13**

- c. Then Paul was stoned and left for dead!

*“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. **20** However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.” **Acts 14:19-20***

4. Derbe, **Acts 14.20b-21** a good reception as there were many disciples.

***21** And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, **Acts 14:21***

5. Returning to these cities, elders were appointed in every church. **Acts 14.21-28**

## **B) Paul’s letter to the Galatians addressed problems.**

1. Their acceptance of “another Gospel”

***6** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, **7** which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. **Galatians 1:6-7***

2. Paul called them foolish for accepting parts of the Law of Moses.

***“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Galatians 3:1-4***

3. Paul points out their acceptance of the Gospel and him personally.

***13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. 14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. Galatians 4:13-15***

## II) Looking at the Question

### A) Have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

1. Normally we associate our enemies with lying, telling half-truths, being deceptive.
  - a. Jesus said Satan was a liar from the beginning and the father of lies. ***John 8.44.***
  - b. Your enemy does not tell you the truth.
2. Friends tell friends what they need to hear, the truth.
  - a. Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer

***20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part***

*nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.” 24 Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.” Acts 8:20-24*

b. Paul rebuked Peter to his face, *Galatians 2.11-12*

## **B) Preaching the truth can make enemies**

1. Moses told Pharaoh the truth but Pharaoh hated Moses.

*28 Then Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!” Exodus 10:28*

2. John the Baptist was killed because he told Herod and Herodias the truth.

*“For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. 4 Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” Matthew 14:3-4*

3. Remember the famous words “You can’t handle the truth”. Jesus was crucified, Steve was stoned, many were persecuted because of the truth.

## **C) Two reasons people don’t want the truth**

1. Unconscious enemies of the truth

*9 “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled*

*them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. Acts 26:9-11*

2. Due to sin and its pleasures, they reject the truth.

*19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. John 3:19*

### III) Look at The Implications of Paul's Question

#### A) They needed to hear the truth

*32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32*

1. Mankind is in need of the word of God as it is the truth, *John 17.17*
2. We should all desire the truth.
  - a. Going back to an earlier point, could you image them saying, Yes you are our enemy because you told us the truth.
  - b. Tell us lies, sweet little lies- Fleetwood mac

#### B) Paul was obligated to teach the truth

1. He made no apologies for teaching the true Gospel.
2. We should always demand the truth be taught and be willing to teach the truth.

*"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2*

### Conclusion:

The Gospel call remains the same for us today. What will matter to us on the Day

of Judgement is the truth. Did we accept it? Did we obey it? Did we teach it? Let us make sure the answer is yes to each of those questions.