

A Paul's pastoral appeal. Galatians 4:12.

❖ **"Brethren, I urge you"**

- Paul first appealed to reason, then he made a request, a call to Galatians' hearts.
- They were his spiritual children, but his work seemed fruitless because of the way they were behaving. He had to "labor in birth again" so they could connect to Christ again (Galatians 4:19).
- They had interrupted their own growth, so they had to be completely transformed. Christ had to be "gestated" in them again.

❖ **"to become like me"**

- This time he goes beyond imitation only. Like in his call to Agrippa (Acts 26:28-29), Paul didn't ask the Galatians **to act** like him, but **to be** like him.
- He wanted them to experience the same Christian life he was living, the same joy for salvation, the same communion in Christ...

❖ **"for I became like you"**

- Paul had the gift of contextualization. He used different methods depending on the people he wanted to reach.
- He talked to the philosophers with wisdom (Acts 17:16-34). He persuaded the Jews with their rites (see Hebrews). He talked about Christ's cross only to the immoral Corinthians (1 Corinthians 2:2). He was a Jew, but he became Gentile to reach the Galatians.

B Remembering the beginnings. Galatians 4:13-15.

- ❖ Paul rested in Galatia because of an eye illness. He took that opportunity to testify to his faith before the Corinthians, who loved him so much that they would've torn out their eyes to give them to him if they could (Galatians 4:15). At the end of his letter, Paul told them that he still had problems with his eyes (Galatians 6:11).
- ❖ Paul appealed to the feelings of joy the Galatians felt when they knew about the truths of Gospel. Had those feelings vanished?

C Telling the truth. Galatians 4:16-20.

- ❖ Paul decided to confront the Galatians with their behavior, even if that could undermine their relationship.
- ❖ His motivation was pure. He loved them so much that they didn't want any of his sons and daughters in faith to get lost.
- ❖ His attitude contrasted with those of the false teachers who tried to win the affection of the Galatians for selfish reasons (Galatians 4:17).