

# Participants Homework Guide

For the week of July 8, 2018

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**The Main Idea:** We are to love people as much as we love the truth

**Key Questions:**

- What was the hardest thing a friend ever told you about yourself? How did they come across and how did you receive it? Read Proverbs 27:6, Psalm 141:5
- Read Galatians 4:12-20. What things stand out to you in this passage
- Read Galatians 4:12, Philippians 3:4-9. In what ways did Paul want the Galatians to be like him?
- Read Galatians 4:12, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. In what way had Paul become like them?
- In reaching people who are far away from God Christians tend toward two extremes. Which of the extremes do you tend to lean towards? Discuss the Extremes and how to bring Balance in your approach sharing the truth of the Gospel.

**Two Extremes**

1. Distance yourself from unbelievers to such an extent that we never have any meaningful relationships or contact with them
2. Identifying so closely with unbelievers that we become virtually indistinguishable from them.

**Balance**

- With the Jews he practiced Jewish customs not opposing to Christianity in order to save the Jews. Acts 16:1-3, 18:18, 21:20-26, 1 Corinthians 9:20
- With the Gentiles he became as they were in matters indifferent to Christianity so he might win them. 1 Corinthians 9:21, Galatians 2:11-21.
- Read Galatians 4:13-16. Have you ever had to communicate truth to people who don't want to hear it? Is the statement true or false? Why or why not?  
***Truth: Those who once appreciated the truth may turn on you and hate you for it.***
- Read Galatians 4:17-20, 1 Peter 3:13. How is it possible to be zealous in a bad or good way? How do you see that in today's world?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- ❖ Sometimes the truth is the last thing we want to hear especially if it exposes us.
- ❖ Even when spoken in love by someone who cares deeply about us, the truth can cause us to bristle.
- ❖ The bad news about us can make us bitter, angry and resentful. We tend to lash out at the truth teller to evade the sting of facing the truth itself . . . and changing.
- ❖ Truth can either make us BITTER or BETTER.

**Application Questions:**

- *How do you generally respond to truth?*
- *Do you seek out people who are honest in their evaluation or do you avoid them?*
- *Have you heard any hard truth about your life lately from someone who cares about you?*
- *If hearing the truth helped you at all, take a few minutes to send a note to the person who shared the truth with you thanking them for loving you enough to say the hard thing.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS**