

Relapsing Into Religion

Galatians 4:8-20

1. The Danger Of Relapsing Into Religion (v. 8-11)

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

- Galatians 4:8-11

We don't follow the law to **earn** a relationship with God. We follow the law to **express** the relationship with God that we already have.

Helpful Questions:

- What is their authority?
- What do they say about God?
- What do they say about having a relationship with Him?

2. Staging A Spiritual Intervention (v. 12-20)

- Meet them where they are, and then call them to more.

Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. - Galatians 4:12

- Remind them of your relationship and shared experiences.

You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. Speak the truth in love. Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. - Galatians 4:13-20

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. - Proverbs 27:6