

Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! Galatians 4:17-20 (NIV)

My Work In You

What kind of work do you think I am doing in you? What do you anticipate seeing in yourself, as I continue my work in you? What is my desire and goal for you? How will you know if you are fully welcoming and allowing my work in you to continue? Could I also ask some questions? **Yes, good right ahead.** Are you asking me how I will think and speak and act like if your work is successfully being accomplished in me? Are you also asking me how I can fully participate in work being done in me? Are you wanting me to know how to evaluate the results of your work in me? Are there signs I should be aware of if your work in me is or isn't achieving the desired results? **Those are all fine questions. Now, take some time to start reflecting on my and your questions. How will you answer them?** I know the goal of your work in me. I know what you want to accomplish in me. **That's good, tell me what you know.** You want the life of Christ to be formed in me. **Yes, I do.** You want me to think and speak and act like Christ did when He lived and walked on this earth. You want others to be able to see the light and life of your Son shining and living through me. You want others to be attracted to you because of the life of Christ being lived out in and through me. You want me to follow Christ's example. You want me to love like He loved. You want me to give like He gave. You want me to serve like He served. **There is something even higher and better and more important that I want for you. There is another example that my Son has set before you. There is something more foundational, that must come first for my Son's life to be formed in you. Can you tell me what that is?** I must live and walk in an intimate relationship with you. That is how I can welcome, allow and fully participate in the work you want to do in and through me. **Why is this true? Why is this foundational? Why must this come first?** It is in your presence that I will be changed. In your presence you will mold and shape me. In your presence you will do your work in me. In your presence you will fully form the life of Christ in me. **Will you come into my presence so I can do my work in you?** Yes, Heavenly Father, I will. **That will be very good.**

Heavenly Father do your work in me. Fully form the life of Christ in me. That is my passionate and zealous desire. Help me to be a bold witness for Christ in the world. Help others to see Him living in me. Make me able to bear fruit for your Kingdom and glory. Amen

Promises *Until Christ Is Formed In You*

Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

NIV Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Fully Developed In Your Lives*

Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them. If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you. Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

NLT Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Formed In You*

They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. Galatians 4:17-20 (NRSV)

NRSV Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Completely... Formed Within You*

These men [the Judaizing teachers] are zealously trying to dazzle you [paying court to you, making much of you], but their purpose is not honorable or worthy or for any good. What they want to do is to isolate you [from us who oppose them], so that they may win you over to their side and get you to court their favor. It is always a fine thing [of course] to be zealously sought after [as you are, provided that it is] for a good purpose and done by reason of purity of heart and life, and not just when I am present with you! My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you, Would that I were with you now and could coax you vocally, for I am fearful and perplexed about you!

AMP Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Formed In You*

They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them. But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you. My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

NASB Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Formed In You*

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.

ESV Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ Is Formed In You*

They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

NKJV Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until Christ's Life Becomes Visible In Your Lives*

Those heretical teachers go to great lengths to flatter you, but their motives are rotten. They want to shut you out of the free world of God's grace so that you will always depend on them for approval and direction, making them feel important. It is a good thing to be ardent in doing good, but not just when I am in your presence. Can't you continue the same concern for both my person and my message when I am away from you that you had when I was with you? Do you know how I feel right now, and will feel until Christ's life becomes visible in your lives? Like a mother in the pain of childbirth. Oh, I keep wishing that I was with you. Then I wouldn't be reduced to this blunt, letter-writing language out of sheer frustration.

MSG Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Finally Be Filled With Christ*

Those false teachers who are so anxious to win your favor are not doing it for your good. What they are trying to do is to shut you off from me so that you will pay more attention to them. It is a fine thing when people are nice to you with good motives and sincere hearts, especially if they aren't doing it just when I am with you! Oh, my children, how you are hurting me! I am once again suffering for you the pains of a mother waiting for her child to be born—longing for the time when you will finally be filled with Christ. How I wish I could be there with you right now and not have to reason with you like this, for at this distance I frankly don't know what to do.

TLB Galatians 4:17-20

Promises *Until You Truly Become Like Christ*

Those people are working hard to persuade you, but this is not good for you. They want to persuade you to turn against us and follow only them. It is good for people to show interest in you, but only if their purpose is good. This is always true, not just when I am with you. My little children, again I feel the pain of childbirth for you until you truly become like Christ. I wish I could be with you now and could change the way I am talking to you, because I do not know what to think about you.

NCV Galatians 4:17-20

Until Christ Is Formed In You Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Galatians 4:17-20

In Context: Read Galatians 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father do your work in me. Fully form the life of Christ in me. That is my passionate and zealous desire. Help me to be a bold witness for Christ in the world. Help others to see Him living in me. Make me able to bear fruit for your Kingdom and glory. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is it exceedingly dangerous for you to allow yourself to be alienated from the Body of Christ?

When can you be certain that you were meant to live and grow with others together in the Body of Christ?

When has someone tried to win you over and pull you away from living your life with and for the Lord?

When have you discovered that you have been passionately zealous for what will one day amount to nothing?

Why will you never regret being passionately zealous for coming to know, love, follow and serve Christ?

Why can you joyfully anticipate that the work of God in your life is to form the life of Christ in you?

How can you look back over your life and see that God has in fact been forming the life of Christ in you?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your passionate and zealous desire for the life of Christ to be formed in you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that Christ's life will be formed in you as you live fully devoted to Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how Christ's life is being formed in you as you love and follow Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you welcome the life of Christ to be formed in you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I welcome you to form the life of Christ in me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how will you form the life of Christ in me today?
