



Meriden Hills Baptist

Your kind of church

Galatians 4:13-20

May 28, 2017 AM

Friend or Foe

Introduction

The abandonment of one's faith is not usually an overnight occurrence. One finds themselves spiritually destroyed after multiple steps toward deception. One of the first destructive choices made by a fallen believer is the choice of ungodly fellowship. Once a believer embraces the friendship of the ungodly, the next step is to embrace the deception by which they live. Once this deception has taken root, the line between friend and foe has been perverted which often results in an individual turning against their true friends and completely abandoning the truth.

I. Proven Friend - vs. 13-16

- A. Friends put the needs of others over _____ needs. (vs. 13, 15)
- B. Friends see past the _____ and recognize the _____. (vs. 14)
- C. Friends _____ the truth out of love for the other. (vs. 16)

II. Present Foe - vs. 17

- A. Enthusiastic _____ does not guarantee sincere _____.
- B. _____ suggests caution when others seek to cut us off from the love of God and His _____.
- C. Ungodly _____ will compromise the truth in order to gain the admiration of people.

III. Precious Family - vs. 18-20

- A. Mature believers seek _____ at all times, not just when our church family is present. (vs. 18)
- B. When a fellow believer falls down _____, the whole church family ought to be moved with _____. (vs. 19)
- C. The best way to _____ a fellow believer is to do so in person. (vs. 20)

Conclusion

Christians have not been given the responsibility to change hearts. But, we have been given the privilege to take part in that change. Our role is to show love and care for those God has placed in our lives. This love should not result in complete abandonment of a fellow believer nor should it be illustrated through willful indifference to their sin. Christians best represent their Lord with a balance of mercy and truth. One can love and forgive while still proclaiming the truth to the deceived.