

**Title:** O That Christ Might Be Formed In You Part 1

**Text:** Galatians 4:12-16

**Main Idea:** The highest goal of your existence is that you might be conformed to the image of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

**Division Statements:**

**1. Christ is formed in us when we follow the example of the godly (v. 12).**

Paul urges the church to adopt His example and pursue the goal of Gal. 2:20. No less than five times in Scripture are we exhorted to pursue the example of Paul (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 4:9) as well as other godly men (e.g. Heb. 13:7).

**2. Christ is formed in us when we reject worldly ideals (vv. 13-14).**

In verses 13-15 we have a clue to the thorn in the flesh, which was apparently some eye disease. The sickness of Paul was a “trial” which would ordinarily invoke contempt and literally “spitting upon.” Further in both Greek and Jewish culture those who suffered as Paul did were ordinarily viewed as those under divine judgment. But the churches of Galatia rejected all such worldly ideals and moved closer to the image of Christ.

**3. Christ is formed in us when we move in love and compassion (v. 15).**

They would have “plucked out their own eyes” and given them to Paul, if they could have. Such was their joy, not in Him, but in the Lord Jesus.

**4. Christ is formed in us when we embrace truth (v. 16).**

Is Paul now an enemy, because he shares with them the same truth that he did in the beginning, when they first trusted in Christ? No, he is laboring again that the image of the Lord might be formed in them (v. 19), and a critical part of this is that they embrace truth.

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**Bridging From Text To Sermon**

**Textual Idea:** Paul pours out his heart and shares the goal of his ministry: the Christlikeness in God’s children

**Sermon Proposition:** The highest goal of your existence is that you might be conformed to the image of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

**Interrogative:** How is Christ formed in us?

**Transition:** The text gives us four paths toward Christlikeness.

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