

Galatians

Part 4: Living in Relationship with God

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Slaves vs. Sons

(Galatians 3:26) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 4:4-7) But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

- The slave has a master. The son has a father.

(Romans 8:15-16) The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- The slave is an employee. The son is an heir.

(Romans 8:17) Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ...

(Philippians 2:12-13 NLT) Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

- The slave is driven by duty. The son is driven by devotion.

(Luke 10:38-42) As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better..."

Living in Relationship with God

(Galatians 4:8-9) Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

1. See God as a Father.

(Matthew 7:9-11) "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

2. Approach God through relationship not rules.

(John 5:39-40) "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

3. Give God my whole heart.

(Jeremiah 29:13-14) "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD.

Relationship changes everything.