

Galatians 4

Jesus

- In what way are we sons of God?

I. Sons of God through Christ

If the Spirit of the Son of God indwells us... We also are sons of God
What Jesus receives from the Father...We also receive

1 Now I say that the **heir** [one who receives an inheritance], as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a **slave**, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Contrast: Sons walking in the Spirit **vs** Slaves walking in the Flesh

- Child compared to a Butler:
 1. **Same:** Both live in house/both provided for by the father
 2. **Difference:** Seen when child is of age/**receives all the father has**

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

**Nothing we tried helped cure sin. Everything left us wanting
Be careful of trying to find in the world what only Jesus can do...**

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Why do you seek the living among the dead? The world can't help

- **Elements:** Those things of the world said to help us "do the right thing"
 1. Superstition: Elements Earth, Air, Fire Water, Planets
 2. Self-help books/Life Coaches/AA/NA
 3. Religion/Rules/Regulations...Called weak/beggarly v 9

All found Wanting

In sharp contrast to the satisfaction found walking in the Spirit of God

- We tried everything but were **still a mess...**

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- **The Father found us in the mud...**

Ezekiel 16:4 As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in

swaddling cloths. ⁵ No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. ⁶ "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' ⁷ I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. ⁸ "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God. ⁹ "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.

Jesus made us ready for the Father to Adopt...

- **Fullness of Time:** Perfect Time/Time appointed by God
- God sent His Son to **prepare us for adoption**
 1. **Born to Mary:** 100% God and 100% Man
 2. **Born a Jew under the Law:** Obligated/Subjected to keep the entire Law
 3. **Born to buy back those condemned by the Law:** Taking our sin...
- While we were yet sinners [mess] Christ died for us

Redeemed: Lit. Bought from the Slave Market

... that we can now receive the adoption as sons

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

- God the **Father** desired to **adopt us** so He...
- Sent His **Son** at the perfect time to **redeem us** and then...
- Sent the **Spirit** of His Son Jesus to **indwell us**

**That with Jesus we also address the God of the Universe as...
Abba, Father; i.e., Daddy, daddy. Jesus not ashamed to call us brethren**

- **The Spirit of Jesus God's Son indwells us...**

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- **Therefore:**
 1. Because we have been adopted by God as sons...
 2. Because we have received the Spirit of Jesus the Son of God...

We are no longer slaves to the Law...Butler of the house making to-do checklists
But sons and daughters of God walking in the very Freedom of the Spirit of His Son

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

- **Freedom to** live holy and blameless lives
- **Freedom from** condemnation for blowing it

- **Freedom in** serving out of love for what God has done
 1. Jesus Redeemed us
 2. Father Adopted us
 3. Spirit Indwells us

Q. Does Jesus Spirit indwell you. How do you know. **A.** If you know God as Dad

Romans 8:9b... Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His...**15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**" **16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God...**

SUMMARY Sons and Heirs Through Christ Jesus cleansed/redeemed us, Father adopted us, Spirit indwells us. No longer slaves to the Law but sons walking in freedom...real life..pre-fall Adam/Eve life in cool or the day

II. Fears for the Church Why would you go backward?

- **To Galatians:** Book of Rebuke

You're not acting like sons but slaves/ Turning your back on the One who adopted you
Think your moving forward by your own effort/You're falling away from the Spirit

- You're doing what you did when I found you...worshiping Idols just new ones
- Religion/Self-Effort/Self-Righteousness...Yet you are **Self-deceived**

8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

Think about it. You Galatians bowed down to rocks.
Slaves to Greek Superstition. Slaves to Idolatry

- Isaiah speaks of the utter foolishness of Idolatry/Superstition

Isaiah 44:15 [Wooden idols] Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. **16** He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." **17** And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "**Deliver me, for you are my god!**"

- **That was you** before you knew God through Jesus
- **That was us:** Worship of sex, money, self, stuff, stones... Can't get no satisfaction

9 But now after you have **known God**, or rather are **known by God**, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

- **Throwing away your freedom in Christ:** Beauty of walking in His Spirit
 1. Going back to the bondage of Idolatry

2. Exchanging one idol [A Rock/Stick] for another [Impotent Religion]

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched... **3 Are you so foolish?**

Q. Can religion be Idolatry? A. Religion is *always* Idolatry

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Colossians 2:20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, **do you subject yourselves to regulations—**

▪ **Did I waste my time?**

Your gullibility is exemplified in your subjection to vain religious exercise...again
Makes me question the genuineness of your Salvation

▪ **If Jesus is the Rock** you stand on... Then why are you so shaky/wobbly/unstable?

The infirmity [sickness] of the [Galatians] is they are fickle in their resolves, fond of change and not to be trusted [Julius Caesar]

▪ **Legalists easily persuaded them with...**

1. **Teaching:** Itching ears
2. **Literature:** Colorful Cartoons
3. **Fine Packaging:** Impotent Religion
4. **Fear:** End of the world is near
5. **Condemnation:** Just not good enough...all from people who don't know God

Colossians 2:16 ...let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind

▪ **Real Temptation?** Easier to follow man-made rules than submit to God

1. Say 5 Hail Mary's and you're on your way. Mafia movies
2. Go to 50 doors and give our spiel/drink the night away
3. Shut down on Friday/Saturday and condemn those who don't
4. Don't drink coffee ...deny the deity Word of God/Deity of Christ

**Religious Pride seeks to make disciples marked by the same Religious Pride
This is what we do/This is what we do not do/Thus we are BGG's**

Matthew 23:15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

▪ **The Law will always do one of two things**

1. Make us proud and try to keep it
2. Make us humble and know we can't but Jesus did

- **Humility:** Mark of a redeemed/regenerated Saint

Humility is the badge a true Son/Daughter of the Living God

Where is self-righteousness? Where is self-exaltation? Where is entitlement mentality?

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him

Romans 8:23 [Creation waits and] ... we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the **adoption, the redemption of our body**. 24 For we were saved in this hope...

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

Job 14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

- Adopted by the Father... Creator/Sustainer of all things

Paul asks "If you are a Son's of the Living God..."

...why are you acting like a Slave to Worldly Philosophies/Superstitions?

- Fears for the Church Continue...**are you're really saved?**

Galatians 4:11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

12 Brethren, I urge you to **become like me**, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.

**Paul was consistent/They were wishy-washy
Paul was humble/They were becoming arrogant**

- Paul says become like me...

1 Corinthians 2:3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

2 Corinthians 10:1 [I] am pleading with you by the **meekness** and **gentleness** of Christ

- People don't always remember what you say
- They do remember how **you made them feel**

Q. How did Jesus make people feel? **A.** Like they were important

- We are to treat others/think about others as Jesus did/does...

Philippians 2:2 ... fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you

which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Was Jesus more important than everyone He met? **Absolutely**
Yet, Jesus made those He spoke to feel more important than Him

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

- **Humility/Gentleness/Meekness:** As was Paul to the Galatians

I became like you: Condescended to your needs as you did mine...

13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. 14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

Paul stopped/camped/preached in Galatia because he was sick

- Trial in his flesh/Messenger of Satan/Prayed 3x. Grace is sufficient
 1. You took me in thought hard to look at
 2. Received me as an angel did not turn me away
 3. I had nothing physical to offer and yet...
- You loved me/were kind to me... a little Jew in Greece
- You would have given me your eyes if you could
- I gave you the Gospel and you were made free until false apostles crept in...

I lovingly corrected you...and now you don't talk to me?

What happened? Religious Pride is what happened

16 Have I therefore **become your enemy** because I tell you the truth?

- **Paraphrase:**
 1. I hear you now talking smack about me
 2. I hear these false-apostles have become your **new BFF's**
 3. I hear they've convinced you I don't know what I'm talking about
 4. I hear you don't like me/need me anymore...

I hear you now think **you're really something!**

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 8 You are **already full!** You are **already rich!** You have **reigned as kings** without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

Humble yourselves. Become teachable again as when I first came to you...

James 1:21b... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- Paul recognized **Religious Pride** was tempting/harming the Galatians
- Personalities/Demeanors/Attitudes were **changing for the worse...**

Remember what you saw in me: Humility, gentleness, meekness, self-control

A desire for you to grow abundantly in the Grace/Knowledge of Jesus

[Not to get another notch on my belt!]

17 They [False-apostles/Legalists/SDA's, LDS's, JW's] zealously court you, but for **no good**; yes, they want to exclude you, **that you may be zealous for them**. 18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

**That you may be zealous for "them". Boom! That's it!
Not zealous for Jesus...but zealous for them!**

- **Zealousness:** Only as good/beneficial as the **what/who we are zealous for**
- **Q. How do you nail a Legalist?**
 1. Not zealous to see you saved
 2. Zealous that you would follow them

Religious Pride seeks to make disciples marked by Religious Pride

This is what we do/This is what we do not do/Thus we are BGG's

- **Everyone else has it wrong.** Problem? Salvation is not an it but a Him

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

19 My **little children**, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, 20 I would like to be present with you now and to **change my tone**; for **I have doubts about you**.

- **Paul says...**
 1. What I am hearing about you is killing me
 2. I hate that my tone has to be what it is
 3. My doubts about you are eating me up...
- Paul considered them his Spiritual children in the faith/He their Spiritual father

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel.

- Paul is getting righteously irritated [if possible] /justifiably saddened

My children whom I took great pains to birth are going back into bondage/self-deceit/lies

2 John 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your **children walking in truth**

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For **what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?** Is it not even **you in the presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

- I was hoping to rejoice with you in Heaven that I played a part in you being there
- **Yet...I have my doubts about you.** Why? **A.** Salvation is marked by Humility

SUMMARY Fears for the Church They were putting themselves back under the bondage of the Law and acted as though they liked it and were proud of it?

III. Two Covenants

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?

You Gentiles now think you know the all about the Jewish Law?
You like stories like Aesop's Fables? **Hears a true story for you...**

22 [One upon a time] ... **Abraham had two sons:** the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. **23** But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, **24** which things are symbolic.

- **Abraham had Two Sons:** Symbolic of the **Law** vs **Promise**
 1. **Ishmael:** Child of his own effort/flesh from Hagar his slave
 2. **Isaac:** Child of Promise/Faith from Sarah his wife at 100 yrs. old
- **Symbolic:** Flesh vs Spirit/Our way vs God's way/Death vs Life/Damnation vs Salvation

24b... For these are the **two covenants:** the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— **25** for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— **26** but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. **27** For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

Two Covenants:

1. **Law:** Speaking of Hagar/doing things our way in flesh leading bondage. **Temporal**
2. **Promise:** Speaking of Sarai/God's way in Spirit leading to freedom. **Eternal**

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are **children of promise.** **29** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then **persecuted him** who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

- **Religious** **Children of the Law/Flesh** Trust in their own insufficient effort
- **Saved** **Children of the Promise/Spirit** Trust in Jesus alone and be saved

Children of the Flesh hate the children of the Promise

Religion hates Jesus. Religion hated grace. Feel it on your doorstep. **It's real.**

- **Isaac and Ishmael don't get along...**

Genesis 21:8 So the child [Isaac] grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned. 9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **scoffing.**

- Why does Islam hate the "people of the Book"?

Genesis 16:11 [2000 BC] ... the Angel of the Lord said to [Hagar]: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name **Ishmael**, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. 12 He **shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him.** And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Acting in the flesh causes bigger problems than we want to imagine as we do what we are going to do in spite of future consequences [NJC]

- Visions not of God/Kneejerk Actions without prayer
- Speaking without brain being engaged/no less the Spirit leading
- Trying help God fulfill His promise in your own way/own time like Abraham/Hagar

Ishmael's descendants became Islam

Religion hates Jesus/Grace as Ishmael hated Isaac/Promise

- **Preaching the Cross makes legalist mad**
- Being told they need a Savior **offends their Pride...**

Galatians 5:11 ... if I still preach circumcision [religion], why do I still suffer persecution? Then the **offense of the cross has ceased.** [People are still offended so I'm doing something right]

Only one way to God...the Cross/Blood of Jesus Christ the Promised Seed

- **Abraham's effort was ridiculous:** Fulfill God's promise in the flesh [Hagar]?
- **God's Promise was miraculous:** 100 yrs. old? How's this going happen? **God**

30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "**Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.**" 31 So then, brethren, **we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.**

- **Our choice...**

1. **Trust in our own efforts** Slave in this Life Eternally cast out/outer darkness
2. **Trust in God's promise** Free in this Life Eternally enter into Everlasting Life

- Ishmael was born first yet God called Isaac Abe's **only begotten son**
- God had no Spiritual regard for Ishmael **the result of man's insufficient effort**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our [righteousness is] like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

SUMMARY Two Covenants My way or God's way?

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" ' 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

- Those that are chosen are those who answer the call
- Not coming as like/feel but as Jesus would have you come...**in humbleness of heart**

Religion/Self-Effort result in Pride...Ultimately eternity in outer darkness

Thought he could come his own way/Dressed in his own righteousness

Father took great expense to provide the only acceptable Wedding Garments

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has **clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,** As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- Robe of perfect Righteousness **was His own Son**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave **His only begotten Son,** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but **have everlasting life.**

Jesus paid it all...All to Him I own...Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow