

Your Identification by Grace - Galatians 4:21-31

Intro: Among all the ways that we might identify ourselves, our most important identity is who we are in Christ.

I. Paul's _____ Question – 4:21

If you really knew what the law demands, you would not identify yourself as one that follows the law for salvation or as “an add to it.”

Cf. Acts 13:39; James 2:10; Galatians 2:16, 3:10-11

II. Paul's _____ Illustration – 4:22-23

Abraham, the two wives, and the two sons represent spiritual realities; and their relationships teach us important lessons about being identified under grace versus law.

III. Paul's _____ Explanation – 4:24-27

- A. Two _____ –
- There is NT Law – Law of Christ – Mark 12:32-33
- There is OT Grace – “Unmerited Favor.”
- B. Two _____ – Ishmael and Isaac
- C. Two _____ – One or two births.

With this identity comes these applications to be made.

1. 4:28-29 - All who have placed their faith in the promise of God through Christ are identified by God as children of promise.
2. 4:30 - We are to cast out from our lives anything that is detrimental to living free as sons in the family of God.
3. 4:31 – It is impossible to be children of both the slave girl and the free woman.

Conclusion: How did you come to church today?

Small Group Questions

1. What are various ways that people identify themselves today?
2. Why was Paul against Christians following the Law? How do Acts 13:39; James 2:10; and Galatians 2:16, 3:10-11 support his opposition.
3. Why does Paul use Abraham and his two sons as an illustration?
4. How does this account illustrate how works done in the flesh and works according to promise differ?
5. Read Galatians 4:24 - How is Hagar as a bondswoman like Mt. Sinai? What do both "give birth" to?
6. Read Galatians 4:24-26 - How does Hagar symbolize law and Sarah grace?
7. Explain how law is found in the New Testament and grace found in the Old Testament.
8. Summarize the differences between Jacob and Ishmael, between Sarah and Hagar, and the two Jerusalem's.
9. How would you explain to a person from this passage that they cannot be saved by keeping the law?
10. How would you explain to a person from this passage that they cannot grow as a Christian by keeping the law?
11. How is God challenging you to think differently?