



Sermon Title: Pastoral Passages week 3

Sermon Title: *Heirs of the Almighty*

Date: 7/24/2022

Galatians 4:1-7

Paul's letter to the Galatians points out their identity was no longer defined by a failure to live up to a system of Old Testament Laws and regulations but by what Jesus accomplished in his death & resurrection: Emancipation from enslavement to the Law. But more than that... Adoption as God's children and, therefore, His heirs.

Big Idea: Remember... WHO you are is defined by WHOSE you are.

You have an eternal worth that exceeds comprehension.

Element #1: INTIMACY

Galatians 4:6

That Aramaic word "Abba" is equivalent to "Daddy" - Everything a father should be: Tender. Giving. Self-sacrificing. "Daddy" was a term no Old Testament Jew would use of God - because God is holy. God tells Moses at Mt Sinai, **Exodus 19:12**

The "fear of the Lord," which is the beginning of wisdom (**Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 9:10**), God can be scary. That's something that the Jewish sacrificial system underscored. Only the High Priest could go into God's presence once a year, and only after elaborate purification rituals and multiple sprinklings of blood. It was the "interface" between God and His people, with strict rules of access. **Hebrews 9:7**

Message received: Be careful. Keep your distance. Follow the rules. God has not somehow become docile in the New Testament. But it's different from Exodus 19, where He tells people to stay away. Instead of a "Do Not Enter" sign, He invites us to come close. All because of WHOSE you are, you now have access.

Inheritance Element #2: ACCESS

Galatians 4:6, Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 3:12

We have access without limitations. One would customarily wait to be announced, and you'd follow strict protocol of speech. But this access is different. As a child of the king, You have the right to barge into his throne room at 2:00 AM to ask Him for a drink of water.

Inheritance Element #3: AFFECTION

Galatians 4:7

We ought to luxuriate in wonder when we read **1 John 3:1**. God's fatherhood of Jesus is mirrored in God's Fatherhood of you. You are a co-heir with Christ, a child of the Almighty. And he regards you with the same warmth as he feels toward his Son.

Element #4: HONOR

Galatians 4:7

Ponder this mystery: God the Son is of one essence with the Father and submits to the Father. And the Father has "appointed [him] heir of all things" (**Heb 1:2**). Everything in the universe is His. **Hebrews 1:2**

God's Word tells Christ-Followers – we are children of God **Romans 8:16–17** God the Father affords to you the same honor with which He regards the Son. Believers in Jesus don't just have eternal life but also eternal status as co-heirs with Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) God... seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. **Revelation 11:15** says of Christ, "He shall reign forever and ever" But **Revelation 22:5** also says that we will reign forever and ever. We will reign with Him. We will someday be like him (**1 John 3:2**).

Element #5: FREEDOM

Galatians 4:7

Slaves always had to worry about whether they measured up. But you're not a slave. You're family. We serve out of gratitude, not fear. **Romans 8:1**

Our adoption frees us from the fear of failure to keep the Law. And it evokes in us a deep desire to please Him. If you have trusted in the Savior, he keeps you. He keeps his children in faith and grace and will not let one of them slip from his hand. **John 10:29**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for children of God. Describe what that means.**
- **Proverbs 9:10 says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Are we supposed to be afraid of God? If so, in what way?**
- **Ephesians 3:12 and Hebrews 4:16 tell us to approach God's throne with confidence. Do you approach him with confidence? What is the difference between approaching Him with confidence and approaching Him with arrogance?**
- **Describe how your approach to life is different, knowing you are heirs of the almighty**