

"God, Our Father" Galatians 3:26-4:7

If you are *in* Christ, you are *in* God's family. If you are in Christ, then you share in His inheritance - promised to Abraham, given to Jesus, passed on to us. As children of God we now enjoy an intimacy with our heavenly Father never before imagined. As little children, He welcomes our impassioned cry, "Abba, Daddy!"

Review purposes of the Law

A. Revealed our need – 3:19-22

Made our sinfulness obvious

3:21b – Could not impart life

B. Restrained sin – 3:23-25

Until Christ would remove sin

Immature need management

Living under the law does not reveal maturity, it reveals immaturity

Law is for a stage of immaturity. Don't rob banks. Does this apply to you? Yes. Do you need that law?

Law is inferior to living by faith. Modeled in Abraham's life.

Paul returns to the theme he began in 3:1-14. We are related to God through Abraham, not through the Law. Christ has received the promises given to Abraham and now He has passed them on to us.

READ 3:7, 13-14; 3:26-29

I. Sons, not slaves

A. Through faith – 3:26-27

Baptism of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9

B. Applies equally to all – 3:28

Jews, and everybody else

Jewish morning prayers originating around 150 A.D., credited to R. Judah ben Elai or R. Meier (his contemporary). Longenecker, 157

"Blessed be He [God] that He did not make me a Gentile; blessed be He that He did not make me a boor [i.e., an ignorant peasant or slave]; blessed be He that He did not make me a woman."

Christ elevated women. Samaritans. Gentiles respected.

Not arguing for abolishment of distinctions. All justified the same way. Differences now create beauty; incorporated into oneness

C. Christ => Abraham => Heirs => 3:29

All that belongs to Christ belongs to you. 1 Cor. 3:21-23

You are already in. Rest in the family.

The only way to be rightly related to God is through Jesus Christ

II. Heirs, not children – 4:1-3

A. (Under law, we were) No better off than slaves

1. Children don't possess – 4:1

2. Children are managed – 4:2-3

Guardians and managers – 4:2

Enslavement – 4:3

Elemental principles; soldiers in a row; simple, basic; letters, syllables, words, sounds; four elements of the cosmos – earth, water, air and fire. LAW.

B. Redeemed by a Brother – 4:4-5

Relates to our humanity

Relates to life under the Law

Redeemed us from slavery

Judicial – justified

Economic/social – redeemed; purchase and set free

Relational – reconciled; adopted

C. Blessed through adoption – 4:5-7

Outside the family; given full rights, status, blessing

You have been adopted. Born outside the family

Intimacy with God –

Cry out – passion, intensity, volume

Abba – Aramaic; reflects Christ's prayer. Mark 14:33-36; Rom. 8:15
Almost never used in Judaism for God. Language of a child.

"Teach us to pray" = you pray differently

We share in Christ's relationship with the Father

- Strength, safety, protection
- Provision of all our needs
- Love. Commitment to our best.
- Affection.
- Training to maturity; released to freedom