

## "Sons and Heirs" Galatians 3:26-4:7

By faith, not by works, we are all equally sons of God and fellow-heirs with Jesus Christ of the infinite blessings of God. Far from just a theological truth, being a son and heir of God brings peace, hope, joy, purpose, and growth to our lives. In fact, absolutely everything we need in this life is already ours as sons and heirs of God. And to enjoy these rich blessings, all we need to do is simply spend time in the presence of our Heavenly Father, our perfect "papa" ("Abba").

### Galatians Review

- The issue: False Teaching

"Faith in Christ is a great start, but to be saved you must also obey the Jewish Law."

- Paul's Response:
  - Justification is by faith alone (2:16)
    - declared righteous in God's sight
    - the Law cannot justify us (3:21-22)
  - Sanctification is by faith alone (3:3)
    - to grow in spiritual maturity
    - the Law cannot sanctify us (3:24-25)

### We are sons of God

- v26 – all of us are sons by faith

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- v27 – how we got into the family

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- vv28-29 – the results

“Blessed be God that He did not make me a Gentile; blessed be God that He did not make me a boor [a peasant or slave]; blessed be God that He did not make me a woman.”

- perfect equality in Christ – all sons
- no room for racism or sexism
- and if sons, then...

## **We are heirs of God**

- v29b
  - heirs of the Abrahamic Covenant
  - How? 3:16

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

...For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

- What does Jesus share with us?
  - now: justification, the Spirit, sonship, peace, joy, hope, fulfillment, victory over sin and Satan, etc.
  - future: opportunity to rule the earth!

2 Peter 1:2-3

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- But how do we enjoy this limitless inheritance?
  - Judaizers: by obeying the Law
  - Paul: No!
    - 4:1-3 – the Law is for children, not heirs
  - vv4-5 - through the work of the Son
    - frees us from sin and Law
  - vv6-7 - through the work of the Spirit
    - draws us close to our heavenly Dad

## **Summary**

- By faith alone, not by works...
  - we are made full sons of God
    - we get to call Him “Dad”!
  - we share Christ’s infinite inheritance
    - blessing, joy, victory, power, purpose, reward, etc...

## **Application**

- Learn to relate to God as “Dad”
  - Learn about Him in the Word
  - Remember who He is through scripture memory
  - Talk to Him in prayer
  - Draw near to Him in worship
- Fathers, take your job seriously!