

Galatians 3:26-4:7

Children of God and the Spirit of Sonship
So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4:7)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15)

I. **Introduction** - Parable of the Lost Son from Luke 15

II. **Division One** - Galatians 3:26-29: *God's children are*

_____ and _____ in Jesus Christ without

_____.

A. We are _____ into God's _____ through Jesus Christ.

B. _____ having _____ access to God's love and protection as well a share in the spiritual _____ were _____ concepts.

C. **Truth #1: Through Jesus Christ, we are _____ into God's family to become His child with all _____ and _____ privileges as His _____.**

D. As a child of God we gain _____ and _____ from God as our Father and we inherit His wealth which is His _____.

E. Romans 8:18

F. **Application Questions**

1. How does knowing that you are a child of God change your perspective on your current struggles and present sufferings?

2. What benefit as God's child do you yearn to experience tangibly?

3. Do you pray to Him? How will knowing that you are God's child change your prayer life - in other words, how and how often you will talk to God?

III. **Division Two - Galatians 4:1-3:** *Though an _____, God's children were subject to the world's _____*

_____.

A. An heir who is _____ is no different from a _____.

B. Paul describes our subjection to something significantly different from earthly guardians and trustees, nannies, tutors, etc. - he describes our submission as being _____ to the "_____ spiritual _____ of the world."

C. Understanding "elemental spiritual forces of the world: _____ people followed the many meticulous _____ and regulations under the penalty of death in some cases. This made for _____ and _____ people as they depended on _____ to make themselves right before God's eyes.

D. Many of us will still try to _____ our own good deeds in with Jesus' good deeds, thinking that this somehow makes us more _____ or protected or in God's good favor. If you _____ your contribution in with Jesus', you are in _____.

E. **Truth #2: We live in _____ if we are not saved by Jesus Christ or if we do not _____ or _____ that we are _____ in Christ.**

F. Justification is a legal _____ of our _____ before God. (See Romans 4:5) “God declares the ungodly to be righteous in His sight, not on the basis of their good words, but in response to their faith.”¹

G. Application Questions

1. Have you been saved by Jesus Christ? If you know Jesus Christ is your Savior, what in your life or attitude indicates that you are mixing your own good deeds in with Jesus’ good deeds?

2. What in your life reveals that you struggle to believe that there is nothing you need do, say or be in your own strength or power to be free in Jesus Christ and perfectly loved by God? Write a short prayer to God confessing your struggle to believe and asking for His help in your struggle.

IV. Division Three - Galatians 4:4-7: *God sent His Son to*

_____ *His children and give His Spirit of* _____.

A. In spite of this miserable condition of _____ for all _____, God sent His Son 1) to _____ us and 2) allow us to _____ adoption to _____.

B. Redemption describes Christ’s saving work of “buying back” sinners out of their bondage to sin and to Satan through the payment of a ransom.”² (See Mark 10:45)

C. Adoption to Sonship describes _____ act of making us _____ of His _____.

D. Many struggle with salvation being more _____ than _____.

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* @ 723

² Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* @ 580

E. But God gave us His Holy Spirit to give us personal, intimate, profound _____ that we are His _____ - the _____ of being loved, cherished, cared for, protected by our Heavenly Father - the _____ of being the object of His great affection and attention. (See Romans 5:5)

F. Adoption to Sonship is different from _____ (to become alive spiritually) and _____ (to have the legal right to stand as a righteous person before God). Adoption has to do with our personal _____ with God as our Father.

G. Heirs: We inherit every heavenly privilege and blessing reserved for members of God's _____ family.

H. See 1 Peter 1:4-5 - We will gain an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...kept in heaven for you..."

I. **Truth #3: In Christ, we not only become God's _____ and _____ but also _____ tangibly the love of the Father in our _____.**

J. **Application Questions**

1. Have you ever experienced the Spirit of Sonship? What has the experience of being God's child looked like for you?

2. How does knowing the love of the Father impact how you repent of your own sins and forgive others?

3. What would you ask God that you might experience His tangible and transforming love today?