

Galatians 3:23 ESV - 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.

Galatians 3:27 NIV - 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

2.

Galatians 3:28 ESV - 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:34-35 ESV - 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Read James 2:1-5 in your Bible

3.

Galatians 4:1-7 ESV - 1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Romans 8:14-17 ESV - 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Mark 14:36 ESV - 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Hebrews 1:2 ESV - 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

"Sons and Daughters"

Galatians- week #7

INTRODUCTION

Paul's concern in his letter to the Galatians was focused on who they really were in God's sight and the significance it brings. Their culture had placed upon them some pretty definite roles and expectations. Paul addressed three of the big ones; ethnicity, class and gender. Where you ranked in these areas was a tremendous part of your identity. But Jesus erased all the cultural boundaries and conferred upon His followers an entirely new identity, elevating us to the highest kingdom status, a child and an heir of God.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What place did you have in your family growing up; only child, first born son, youngest daughter, somewhere in the middle?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Read Galatians 3:26; John 1:12; Galatians 3:23; Galatians 3:27

If we want to understand what Paul was telling the Galatians, we need to understand the culture of their time. In Paul's day, the son who was recognized as heir was given the highest honor. So when Paul tells his readers they're now all sons and heirs of God, that's a big deal. (Gal 3:26) What gave us the right to be called a son or God? (John 1:12) How does that contrast with the position we had before we believed in Christ? (Galatians 3:23)

Last weekend we witnessed several baptisms at New Life. That public display of going under the water and rising up again symbolized what was happening spiritually – that person removed their old identity and "put on" their new identity. How does Galatians 3:27 describe what

happens at baptism? That may sound simple, but when you think of remaining “clothed in Christ” or abiding in Him, what does that mean in your day to day life?

Beyond Cultural Expectations

2. Read Galatians 3:28; Acts 10:34-35; James 2:1-5

If ever there was a statement that dispelled the stereotype of the “prejudiced culture of Christianity”, Paul’s bold declaration in Galatians 3:28 is it. Our faith in Christ is the great equalizer. Paul says in Christ we are all one. How did Peter also recognize this fact in Acts 10:34-35? Which boundaries did Paul specifically mention have been erased for followers of Christ? Which of these would you say remains as the greatest barrier to equality in our culture; race, class or gender?

Christians should not be timid to promote equality. In fact, from its inception Christianity has influenced the prevailing culture for good. Read James 2:1-5 and contrast how the believers (brothers) treated a poor man and how God honored him who was rich in faith, if not rich in funds. What opportunities do we have to elevate the status of the marginalized around us, especially within the family of God?

From a Child to an Heir

3. Read Galatians 4:1-7; Romans 8:14-17; Mark 14:36; Hebrews 1:2

In chapter 4 Paul gives the Galatians an example of the transition from being a child to becoming the heir. Even those in line to inherit a throne are managed by caretakers while they are children. So, although the law kept us under guard, what was Jesus able to do for us (v. 4-5)? Both roles, son and heir, are unique and important. As adopted sons God’s relationship to us is now as our Abba Father. What was the occasion that Jesus addressed God using this term? (Mark 14:36) What does that reveal to you about the significance and intimacy of this term?

Also significant is our title as heir. In Romans 8:17 we are declared fellow or joint heirs with Christ. If we inherit all that Christ inherits, what does Hebrews 1:2 say that inheritance includes? Take a moment

to let that idea sink in. What does this say about the extent of God’s love and grace for us his children?

WRAP-UP

We all are created in the image of God, but we haven’t all received our sonship. The biblical use of sonship is important for us to understand. God does not see the distinctions and boundaries of class, gender or race placed upon us by the world. In Christ we are all one. God has elevated us to a new status. Before anything else you are a child of God, and destined to receive the love and blessing of your Abba Father along with Christ.

Memory Verse

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- Galatians 3:28 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- This week be aware of the divisions of race, gender and class imposed by the world, and look for ways to honor the marginalized around you.

Bible Verses

1. Galatians 3:26 ESV - 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

John 1:12 ESV - 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,