

Galatians 3:26-4:7

Key Verse: 3:26-27

1. Read 3:26--27. What is our new identity in Christ Jesus? Why is this so amazing and graceful? (1Jn3:1; 1Pe2:10) How does this happen to us? (3:27) What does it mean to be "clothed with Christ"? (Ro13:13--14; Eph4:22--24) What does it mean to you to be a child of God?
2. In Christ, what is our new relationship with other believers, regardless of human distinctions? (3:28) How can we accept all kinds of people into our community, and why should we? (Ro15:7; Rev7:9) How did Paul emphasize the new status of those who belong to Christ, Jew or Gentile? (3:29)
3. What was the legal status of children named as heirs of an estate? What were the roles of guardians and trustees? How did Paul apply this to our lives before believing in Jesus? (3,9b) In what sense did we used to be in slavery to these things?
4. Read verse 4. When and how did Jesus come? What does "God's set time" imply? What promises of God were fulfilled when Jesus was "born of a woman"? (Ge3:15; 22:18; Isa7:14) Why did God send him in this way? (Jn1:14) Why was he "born under law"? (5a; Lk2:21--24; Mt5:17; Heb2:17)
5. Read verse 5. How miserable was it to be under the law? To release us, what did Christ do? (Ro3:24--25a; Heb9:12) What was his ultimate purpose? (5b) What is the fundamental change in status of an adoptee, and what new privileges are bestowed? How can we experience being adopted into God's family? (Jn1:12)
6. Read verse 6. What amazing thing happens to us when we are adopted by God? What does it mean to call God "Abba, Father!" (Ro8:15--16) How does this reflect a change in the way God views us, and in the way we relate to him? How is our identity changed? (7) What does it mean to be an "heir"? (Ro8:17; 1Pe1:3--4)