

Galatians 4:1-9 From Bondage to Sonship

1. Children kept under the law • Galatians 3:24-29 (Review)

- a. Those who have received the Spirit are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:26)
 - i. Receiving righteousness by faith is the only way you could be called, "Abraham's seed".
 - ii. If children, then heirs of God. If heirs of God, then joint heirs with Christ. (Rom 8:16-17)
 - iii. If sons, you are no longer under tutors and governors (the schoolmaster).
- b. We have now received the inheritance (a heavenly one). (Eph 1:3, 11)

2. The heir under tutors • Galatians 4:1-3

- a. **Child:** A descendant; weak in knowledge; experience; judgement. (Websters 1828)
- b. Naturally speaking it is understood that children do not make their own decisions.
- c. Dispensationally speaking Israelites were God's children. They were those appointed to receive inheritance. Even now they have not yet obtained it. (Rom 9:4, 31-33, 11:26-27)
 - i. The tutors and governors of Israel were God and the Law of Moses. What to wear, what to eat, what to speak, what to think - the law dictated.
- d. Being a child, you may have an inheritance you do not yet possess.

3. The appointed time and adoption • Galatians 4:4-7

- a. Naturally speaking, when a child grows up, they are now a **son**: Ready to receive inheritance.
- b. Dispensationally speaking God sent his Son to redeem those under the law. (Gal 4:4-5)
 - i. Christ came confirming promises. (Rom 15:8)
 - ii. Israel was to be children, then sons. (Lev 26:12)
 - iii. The time appointed brought the power to be sons in the form of the New Testament for Israel. **The fulfillment of which is yet future.** Israel is not yet complete. (Jn 1:11-12, Hos 1:10)
- c. Now, we, a new creature, learn that we receive adoption of children (by faith). (Eph 1:4-6)
- d. Not only so, but sons. (Gal 4:5)
- e. **Adoption:** Receive into a position. Children, yes. Also mature, grown up, sons. (Gal 3:13)
- f. We, as the body of Christ have obtained an inheritance. We have a particular standing as sons before God. (Eph 1:11, 2 Tim 1:7)

4. Service to God • Galatians 4:8-9

- a. If a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Col 2:10, Col 3:4)
 - i. Everything we have is in Christ.
- b. Service to idols? The law? We do not serve God by going back to the weak and beggarly. (Gal 4:9)
- c. We serve God in liberty as sons. Able to make decisions, knowing the will of our father. (Gal 5:1)