

“Grownups In Christ!”

Galatians 4:1-7

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

December 16, 2018

Introduction

- Adolescence is marked by both change and confusion
 - Physical, emotional, intellectual, and social changes in young people as they approach adulthood
 - Parents also experience times of change and conflict as their children approach adulthood
- Ancient world marked the “coming-of-age” of boys to men
 - Romans: Liberalia and “toga virilis” 1 Corinthians 13:11
 - Jews: Bar Mitzvah
 - Greeks: “Apatouria”
- Lack of such definitive cutoff between boys and men in our society today
- Paul, in Galatians 3, has demonstrated that salvation is by God’s grace through faith plus nothing
 - The law defines sin, empowers sin, and turns sin into a punishable offense. It condemns rather than justifies.
 - Promise of salvation as part of the Abrahamic covenant, fulfilled by the “Seed” of Abraham, Jesus Christ.
 - We are now...
 - “Sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ”
 - United with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and thus clothed with Christ as new creations.
 - All ONE in Christ Jesus, all sharing equally in the spiritual blessing of salvation
 - “Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”
- The Galatians as confused and in a quandary: Would they revert back to be a child under the law or would they embrace being an adult son in God’s family?

Grownups in Christ!

A. The Characteristic of Childhood—Galatians 4:1-3

1. The human experience of being a child—Galatians 4:1-2
 - a. Under “guardians”, “stewards” and “tutors”
 - b. Need for Christian parents to establish family rules and standards, provide boundaries
2. Spiritual application—Galatians 4:3 Under the “elements of the world”?
 - a. Physical elements of earth, air, fire, water, sun, moon, stars, planets—created things that pagans worshipped and demons controlled.
 - b. The Mosaic Law—Galatians 3:23
 - c. Elementary principles of all human religions
 - 1) Connected to the ceremonial rituals and holy days of human religion—Galatians 4:9-10
 - 2) Connected to deceptive human traditions and philosophies of men—Colossians 2:8
 - 3) Refers to the rabbinical traditions which set aside God’s word—Mark 7:9, 13

B. The Transformation from “Childhood to Adult Sons in God’s family”—Galatians 4:4-7

1. **God sent His own Son into the world—Galatians 4:4-5**
 - a. *“In the fullness of time”*—world ready for Christ’s birth
 - 1) Religiously—paganism and Judaism spiritual bankrupt—Matthew 23:4, 5, 15, 28; 11:28-30
 - 2) Culturally—synagogue system and the universal language
 - 3) Politically—the pax Romana, the “peace of Rome”
 - b. The “Son” refers not to Jesus divine essence but to His relationship to God the Father
 - 1) Existed eternally as the equal “Word” – John 1:1-2; Hebrews 1:2-3
 - 2) The “word” became subservient to the God the Father—Philippians 2:5-7
 - 3) Jesus Christ became the “son of God” at His incarnation—Psalm 2:7; Luke 1:31-3, 35
 - c. Jesus Christ as fully God identifies fully identifies with man—Galatians 4:4
 - 1) He was *“born of a woman”* – not necessarily a reference to the virgin birth, but fully human birth of Jesus
 - 2) He was *“born under law”*—under the *“elements of the world”*
 - d. The two-fold reasons Jesus, the Son of God, became a man...
 - 1) *“To redeem those who were under law”*—Galatians 5:5; Romans 8:2-4; 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - 2) *“That we might receive the adoption as sons”*—Galatians 5:5; Ephesians 1:3-5
2. **God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts—Galatians 4:6-7**