
Sermon Notes

July 3, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

I'm Adopted Galatians 4:1-7

Before and After

- ❖ Paul gives us a “before and after” picture of how coming to Christ in faith changes our identity, realigns our family relationships and conveys a wide range of privileges and benefits to all who are truly His
- ❖ Paul has previously drawn contrasts between
 - the old covenant and the new
 - the era of Moses and the time of Christ
 - living under the law and living by faith
 - the law functioned as prison warden and guardian
 - living by faith leads to the inheritance that belongs to all who become God’s children through faith in Jesus

The “Heir Apparent”

- ❖ Paul provides a summary of some customs that were familiar to those who lived within the Greek culture of his day
 - resources belong to the “heir apparent” by virtue of title but he does not actually possess them until he comes of age

- from the “outside looking in, the “heir apparent’s” life doesn’t look very different than that of a slave’s
- but, what might **SEEM** like bondage is absolutely necessary until the son matures and reaches the age of majority
- ❖ So what? Who cares? Why does this matter?
 - the point of Paul’s analogy is that the law plays a similar role in the unfolding history of salvation
 - v. 3, when we were children (spiritually speaking] we *were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world*
 - Paul uses the term *elementary principles* as yet another way to describe the law (*cf.* Col 2:20-22)
 - *elementary principles* = the ABC’s of God’s will
 - the OT law served very much like “elementary school” for the people of God
 - God rears His children on the Law in order to prepare them for and move them on to the Gospel
 - those who want to be spiritual “grown-ups” must advance beyond the law
- ❖ God wants us to begin appreciating and enjoying a mature relationship with Him as our heavenly Father who has adopted us into His family

Adoption as Sons

- ❖ Jesus came into the world for the express purpose of redeeming *those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons*

- God's predetermined plan includes a specific date on which God the Son comes to earth to accomplish His divine will and purpose (*the fullness of time*)
- Jesus is **sent** by God on His mission (divine nature)
- Jesus is *born of woman* (human nature)
- Jesus is *born under the law* (keeps all of the law perfectly on behalf of those He comes to save)
- ❖ Why does Jesus do all this?
 - *to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons*
 - Jesus gains our freedom so that we can be part of His family
 - Jesus turns slaves into sons
- ❖ The Spirit of Jesus lives in all of God's children which gives us the unique privilege and power to cry out to God as our *Abba Father*
 - becoming God's child is a gift you receive through adoption (*cf.* John 1:12)
 - adoption by God is the result of **being born again**
 - all whom God adopts receive all the rights privileges that come along with family membership
 - don't act like a slave instead of a son!
- ❖ God wants His adopted children to know just how deeply loved and how incredibly secure they are in His love
 - being adopted into God's family is the greatest privilege the gospel has to offer

- the implications of our adoption take a lifetime to work through
 - the Spirit of adoption causes us to want to be like our big brother, Jesus and to live up to our new, family identity... but this all TAKES TIME
 - the remainder of our time on earth is taken up with living out the implications of our new family identity
- in adoption, the Father draws us to Himself and opens the door for us to grow in closeness, intimacy, and love with Him
- no one who is truly adopted into God's family will persistently live a life that is willfully intent upon contradicting *the Spirit of His Son*
- ❖ *Abba* is a heart cry, a word cried out by Jesus in Mark 14:36
 - if you belong to God through faith in Jesus, you have a perfect heavenly Father who will never let you down and will never let you go
 - "How can I know for certain that I am adopted into God's family?"

Personal Application

1. How aware of and how thankful are you for your adoption into God's family? Do you view your adoption into God's family as the highest gospel privilege God offers you?
2. Are you confident that you can cry out to God as *Abba Father*? Why or why not?