

Spiritual Ancestry?

Galatians 3:26-29

East Berlin Community Church
Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook
December 9, 2018

Introduction

- Interest today in tracing one's family tree and finding ancestral roots
- More important than human ancestry is our spiritual ancestry. Who are we?
- False teacher claimed to be Abraham's true son through keeping the law.
- Paul's counter: Spiritual blessings of Abraham do not come through keeping the law, but through faith.
 - The Law condemns rather than justifies.
 - The Law does not supersede nor annul the promise God made to Abraham
 - The Promise was a unilateral, unconditional, permanent covenant made with Abraham that promised spiritual blessings for all.
 - The Law does define sin, provide a way to deal with it, provokes it, and turns sin into a punishable offense. It points out our utter sinfulness and helplessness apart from Christ.
 - The Law was a mediated, bilateral, conditional, temporary covenant enforce until "*the Seed should come to whom the promise was made.*"—that is, until Jesus Christ

Spiritual Ancestry? Who are we?

A. We are "*sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus!*"—Galatians 3:26

1. God is the father of all men creatively.—1 Corinthians 8:6
2. But God is not the father of all mankind redemptively!
 - a. Apart from saving faith in Christ, all men are enemies of God.
 - b. Unbelievers' spiritual father is the devil himself—John 8:42-44
 - c. We need to be "born again" in order to become children of God. John 3:3; 1:11-13
3. We are not only "children of God" through faith, but also "sons of God" through adoption.
 - a. The ancient Roman ceremony of "toga virilism"—coming-of-age
 - b. Law as a "tutor" to bring us to Christ. Once saved, no longer under the tutor.—Galatians 3:24-25
4. We "all" are sons of God through faith—the "all-ness" of God's plan!

B. We are "*united with and clothed with Christ*" -- Galatians 3:27

1. "Baptism" here is not water baptism, but rather spiritual baptism.
2. Water baptism pictures what happens at salvation, when we are spiritually united with Christ. Romans 6
 - a. Great mystery that is hard to understand—the mystical union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
 - b. The essence of the Christian life—Galatians 2:20
3. We are "*clothed with Christ*"
 - a. We are a "new" creation in Christ Jesus—2 Corinthians 5:17
 - b. We have put off the "old" man, and have put on the "new"—Colossians 3:9-11
 - c. Early Church ritual of putting on a clean, white robe after being baptized.
4. Infant baptism and circumcision as signs of the covenant?

C. We are "*all one in Christ Jesus*". – Galatians 3:28

1. Jewish thinking regarding the spiritual superiority of Jews, freemen, and males
2. At the cross, the ground is level. The person who is united with Christ by faith becomes one with every other believer. We share the same spiritual value, position, privileges, and worthiness. Romans 10:12
3. For example:
 - a. Jews and Greeks-- Racial
 - a. Deep division between Jews and Gentiles—Ephesians 2:11-12
 - b. Barrier broken down at the cross—Ephesians 2:13-17
 - c. The development of a "new" man—Ephesians 2:15
 - d. Believing Gentiles enjoy the same blessings, privileges, and position—Ephesians 2:19)
 - b. Slave or Free—Social Status
 - a. Believing "slaves" become "beloved brothers"—Philemon 15-16
 - b. God is no respecter of persons, and neither should we—James 2:5
 - c. Male nor female—Gender equality
 - a. The Jewish world's view of women in Paul's time
 - b. Christ elevates the place of women in society
4. Being "one" does not obliterate all of the distinctions between these groups—just the spiritual

D. We are "*Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.*" -- Galatians 3:29