

“From Bondage to Sonship!”

Galatians 4:1-7

We are helped here to see the glories of full sonship granted us in Jesus Christ.

1. Life before Faith and before Christ

vv. 1-3

(1) The Figure: An heir, but still a child *“I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything”*

- His status as to experience, no different than a slave.
- A minor (one perhaps whose father has died)
- Not yet of age to enter into the benefits of full sonship.

- Under guardians and managers *“but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.”*

- guardian of a minor
- manager of an estate

- The situation remained the same until the date set by the father

(2) The Figure applied: The same was our situation before Christ came

- Enslaved *“In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.”*

- Enslaved to the rudimentary character of the law as it applies to both Jew and Gentile
- Moral principles by which men lived before Christ, without finding redemption in them

- So it was with:

- The covenant nation.
- Those outside (Gentiles), but who had been chosen as heirs of salvation.
- Each of us before we came to faith.

2. Life in Christ

vv. 4-7

(1) The Status of Full Sonship procured for us through Jesus Christ

-1- At the time appointed by the Father *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law”*

-2- God sent forth His Son! Two ideas: - The going forth of the Son from His place of glory
- Sent forth as invested with divine authority

-3- Jesus entered fully into our human experience *“born of woman”* coming from a woman

-4- Jesus, the true heir, fulfilled all of the law of His Father *“born under the law”*

- He redeemed us from the law’s bondage and its curse of judgment
- He secured for us the adoption as sons

(2) The Experience of Full Sonship applied to us by the Spirit

-1- Jesus secured this blessing for us *“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”*

-2- The blessing of the indwelling Spirit

- An inward work (Compare the Law, which was wholly outward! An external authority)
Conveying life and power!

- A deep, passionate, penetrating work *“crying” “crying out” “shouting”*

We know this work and its effect in the depths of our being
The Spirit is crying out. This deep work registers in our crying out!

- Intimacy realized, full assurance of God’s love and favor enjoyed

“Abba” – (Aramaic) “Daddy” Jesus addressed His Father in this way! (Mk. 14:36)
Addressing God in such a familiar way was unheard of until Christ. Such intimacy!

-3- Summary: A radical change of status! ...and experience! *“So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”*

Further Application: