

Sermon Discussion

29 May 2022

Read Galatians 3:26-4:7

Dig Deeper

It's important to note (v. 26) that **all** who believe in Christ become **sons of God**. As seen in verse 24, the Law was a discipling guardian or tutor, and those under its supervision were regarded as children. However, now that Christ had come, the Galatian believers were adult sons through faith. The exalted position of "sons of God" is explained in v. 27 to involve a living union with Christ brought about by being **baptized into Christ**. This is the baptism of (or in) the Holy Spirit, which according to Paul (*1 Corinthians 12:12-13*) joins all believers to Christ and unites them within the church.

Since all believers became one with each other in Christ (v. 28), human distinctions lose their significance. None is spiritually superior over another. A believing **Jew** is not more privileged before God than a believing **Gentile**; a believing **slave** does not rank higher than a believing **free** person; a believing **man** is not superior to a believing **woman**.

Some Jewish men prayed, *"I thank God that Thou hast not made me a Gentile, a slave, or a woman."* Paul cut across these distinctions and stated that they do not exist in the body of Christ so far as spiritual privilege and position are concerned. Elsewhere, while affirming the coequality of man and woman in Christ, Paul did nonetheless make it clear that there is a headship of the man to woman (*1 Corinthians 11:3*) and that there are distinctions in the area of spiritual service (*1 Timothy 2:12*).

Due to our **adoption as sons**, we can call God "**Abba**." However, we over sentimentalise this word when we refer to it as mere baby talk and translate it into English as "daddy." The word Abba appears in certain legal texts of the Mishna as a designation used by grown children in claiming the inheritance of their deceased father. As a word of address, Abba is not so much associated with infancy as it is with intimacy.

We learn from this text that the purpose of the Son's mission was to give the rights of sonship; the purpose of the Spirit's mission, to give the power of using them.

1. What's the difference between being justified and being adopted? How would you respond to someone who said that God is the Father of everyone, regardless of their faith?
2. At the end of Galatians 3, Paul tells us that those who believe are also sons of God. In addition to this newfound identity and relationship to God, we learn that we are also "heirs." What does it mean to be an "heir" of God? What sort of inheritance do Christians stand to receive?

3. What is the difference between redemption and adoption? How does our redemption and adoption impact our everyday living?
4. When someone is adopted, what are some of the practical change that take place? What parallels do you see to our spiritual adoption?
5. According to verses 6-7, what practically identifies us as children of God?

Application & Prayer

Memory Verse

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28 ESV

This week be aware of the divisions of race, gender and class imposed by the world, and look for ways to honour the marginalized around you.