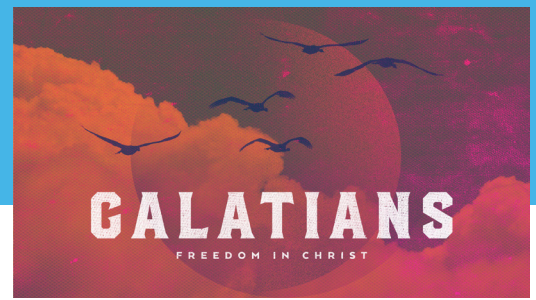


Discussion Questions

May 10, 2026



Galatians 3:23-29 - One in Christ

In Galatians 3:23-29, Paul explains that the Old Testament law acted as a strict guardian until Christ came. Now that faith has arrived, our identity has radically shifted. Paul outlines four profound truths for every believer: we are adopted as full Sons, we are Clothed in Christ, we are One family, and we are Heirs to God's promise. Paul directly challenged the cultural divisions of his day—Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female—declaring that none of these earthly categories determine our standing at the Kingdom Table. Whether grappling with deep theological convictions or the old labels we carry, the gospel invites us to find our primary identity in Jesus and to hold space for unity amidst our differences.

Read Galatians 3:23–29 together.

1. **The Guardian.** Paul compares the law to a “guardian” or “custodian” a household slave whose job was to walk a young son to school, discipline him, and bring him home until he came of age. Based on the sermon, how does that image impact the way you read what Paul says about the law? What does Paul want us to feel about the law and about Christ?
2. **Sons and Daughters.** In verse 26, Paul deliberately uses the word “sons” rather than “children” for everyone in the room, including women. In the ancient world, only sons received the inheritance. Why is calling a mixed room of men and women “sons of God” such a radical statement? How does it land differently than if Paul had simply said “children”?
3. **Imagining the Room.** The cultural backdrop of verse 28 was a daily prayer where devout men thanked God they were not a Gentile, a slave, or a woman. Imagine being one of those people sitting in an early house church the day verse 28 was read aloud. What would have been hardest to believe? And where do you think we still need that kind of explosive gospel power in our world or in the church today?
4. **Back to the Garden.** Paul changes his grammar in the third pairing — “no male and female” — directly quoting Genesis 1:27. Read Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 3:16 together. How does the distinction between God’s original design (Genesis 1) and the curse of the fall (Genesis 3) shape the way you read what Paul is doing in Galatians 3:28? What might Paul be calling the church back to?
5. **Clothed in Christ.** Read verse 27 again. In the early church, baptism involved taking off your old clothes, going down into the water, and being wrapped in a clean white robe — the clothes you walked in with were left at the edge. What old labels or “clothes” are you tempted to put back on each morning? What would it look like this week to actually choose to clothe yourself in Christ instead?
6. **One, Not the Same.** The sermon was honest about secondary issues — like women in ministry — where faithful Christians land in different places, while still being one body. Why is it so hard for the modern church to hold secondary issues with charity? Where in your own life do you need to grow in holding your convictions firmly and charitably at the same time?
7. **James was open about his own conviction on Galatians 3:28 and women in the church, while honoring that faithful Christians land in different places. Recognizing this can be a sensitive question, if you feel comfortable, share where you have landed, and how your understanding has been shaped over time.**
8. **Which Word.** Out of the four identity truths from this passage — Son. Clothed. One. Heir.— which one is the Holy Spirit pressing into your heart the most right now, and why?

Closing Prayer

Pray specifically for our church to be a community that proves Jesus is who He said He is by the way we sit together at one table.

Galatians 3:23-29 (NLT)

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Birkat HaShachar (Blessings of the Dawn)

"Thank you God that you did not make me a Gentile, a slave, or a woman." -

Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:23-25 (NLT)

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

Galatians 3:26-29 (CSB)

..for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus. For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise." -

4 Truths of our Identity

We are SONS.

We are CLOTHED.

We are ONE.

We are HEIRS.

Galatians 3:27 (CSB)

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Jew and Gentile**Slave and Free**

The gospel did NOT wait for the empire to abolish slavery. It operated in a radical, culture-defying Kingdom way in the midst of it.

There are no second-class citizens in the kingdom

Male and Female**Creation****Galatians 3:28 (NLT)**

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." -

Genesis 1:27

..male and female He created them..

Genesis 3:16 (NIV)

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

New creation restores what God intended for humanity from the beginning. And the church is meant to be the first place where that restoration becomes visible

The Spirit at Pentecost**Dr. Gordon Fee**

"Which comes first, gender or gifting?"

Paul's Own Ministry Practice

Romans 16 is the most vivid picture we have of what the early church actually looked like.

Over 2/3rds of the names listed were slave names and almost half were women.

It was Galatians 3:28 in action.

F.F. Bruce

"I am for whatever God's Spirit grants women gifts to do."

Paul says, "You are ALL one in Christ Jesus."

Differences remain and distinctives remain, but we are one.

Galatians 3:29 (NLT)

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Four present-tense truths

You are a SON

You are CLOTHED

You are ONE

You are an HEIR