

Freedom – Children of Promise

Galatians 4:21-31

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

Paul has expressed his love and concern for the believers in the churches in Galatia throughout chapter 4. He really wishes he could be there in person to talk with them and even shares his hurt that they see him as an enemy because he is telling them the truth. To drive home his point about law and grace, he shares the miraculous account of Abraham and Sarah and the birth of Isaac as the son of the promise. Paul uses this account to share the slavery of the law and the promise that comes with grace.

1. Paul uses this allegory drawn from Hagar and Sarah to show that we are children of God, as believers, heirs of the promise, and therefore have all the freedoms and rights that this affords us. Explain how this position as a child of the promise grants our freedom.
2. Warren Weirsbe made the comment, *“It is impossible to mix law and grace, faith and works, God’s gift of righteousness and man’s attempts to earn righteousness.”* In our flesh we tend to have this struggle to “earn our righteousness.” Where do you see this in your own life?
3. Charles Spurgeon said, *“Pharisees and self-righteous persons display great enmity toward those who depend upon the grace of God in Christ Jesus. They call them presumptuous and revile their doctrine as tending to licentiousness.”* In the allegory Ishmael was laughing at Isaac. It portrays the way legalists see those under grace. How have you seen this struggle in your own life as a Christian? Where is it most prevalent and how are we to deal with it?
4. As we understand this picture of the child of promise we are reminded of **Galatians 4:7** – *“So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”* When you consider the way you view your relationship with God, do you see yourself more as a slave or a child? Explain?
5. What from this text or other texts in Galatians can you think about this week to remind yourself that you are a child of God and unconditionally loved by God the Father?