

## From Slaves to Sons Galatians 4:1-11

*1 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, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. 8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.*

### 1. The Preparation for Sonship v. 1-3

#### a. Incarnation

- *1 Corinthians 15:22 (ESV)* <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- *1 Corinthians 15:45 (ESV)* <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
- *Romans 8:3 (ESV)* <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

#### b. Redemption

#### c. Adoption

- *Ephesians 1:3-5 (ESV)* <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

### 2. The Proof of Sonship v. 6

- a. The Definition of the Holy Spirit
- b. The Destination of the Holy Spirit
- c. The Declaration of the Holy Spirit

### 3. The Privilege of Sonship v. 7

### 4. The Perversion of Sonship v. 8-11

- a. Elementary Religion
- b. Ritualism
- c. Brought Bondage
- d. Discouraged Their Pastor

## Questions for Reflection and Application

What has most excited you in this section?

Is adoption something you experience as well as understand?

How can you meditate on the Son's work more, and ask the Spirit to work on your affections more?

When are you most in danger of living as a slave, not a son?