

**SET FREE:**  
*LIVING IN  
THE SPIRIT OF*  
**GRACE**

Part 6 – Galatians 3:15-29

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS



**In the book of Galatians Paul has some strong words for the church:**

*“How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?”*

**Galatians 3:3**



**Brief context:** Paul writes to the Galatians because they are being told faith in Christ is not enough — they must add observance to customs of the Law (*circumcision, food laws*)

**Key Truth:** God's promise came before the Law, is fulfilled in Christ, and creates a new family by faith — not by law-keeping.



Jesus + nothing =.....?

**Jesus + nothing = EVERYTHING**

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## THE FLOW OF PAUL'S ARGUMENT (3:15-29)

### Gods Unbreakable Promise Came Before the Law (vv. 15-18)

- *The covenant with Abraham cannot be cancelled or altered by the Law that came 430 years later.*
- *Paul uses a human example: once a covenant is ratified, it cannot be changed.*
- *The promise was made to Abraham and to his "seed" 430 years before the Law.*
- *The "seed" ultimately refers to Christ.*
- *Therefore, inheritance comes by promise, not keeping the law.*



# So why the Law? (vv. 19–22)

If the promise is enough, why the Law?

Paul gives three functions of the law:

**1. The Law was added because of sin (v.19)**

*It exposes and defines sin.*

**2. The Law was temporary (v19)**

It was in place “until the Seed should come.”/promised child



**Paul gives three functions of the law:**

**1. The Law was added to reveal sin (v.19)**

**2. The Law was temporary (v19)**

**3. The Law cannot give life (v.21)**

**(2 Cor 3:6 letter kills, Spirit gives life)**

- If a law could give righteousness, that would be the way—but it cannot.
- The Law reveals guilt; it does not remove it.
- The Law is a mirror, not a cleanser.

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## THE FLOW OF PAUL'S ARGUMENT (3:15–29)

- Gods Unbreakable Promise Came Before the Law (v. 15–18)
- The Law had a temporary purpose until Jesus (v. 19–22)

### The Law as Guardian (vv. 23–25)

Paul changes metaphors: The Law was a “guardian” (paidagogos).

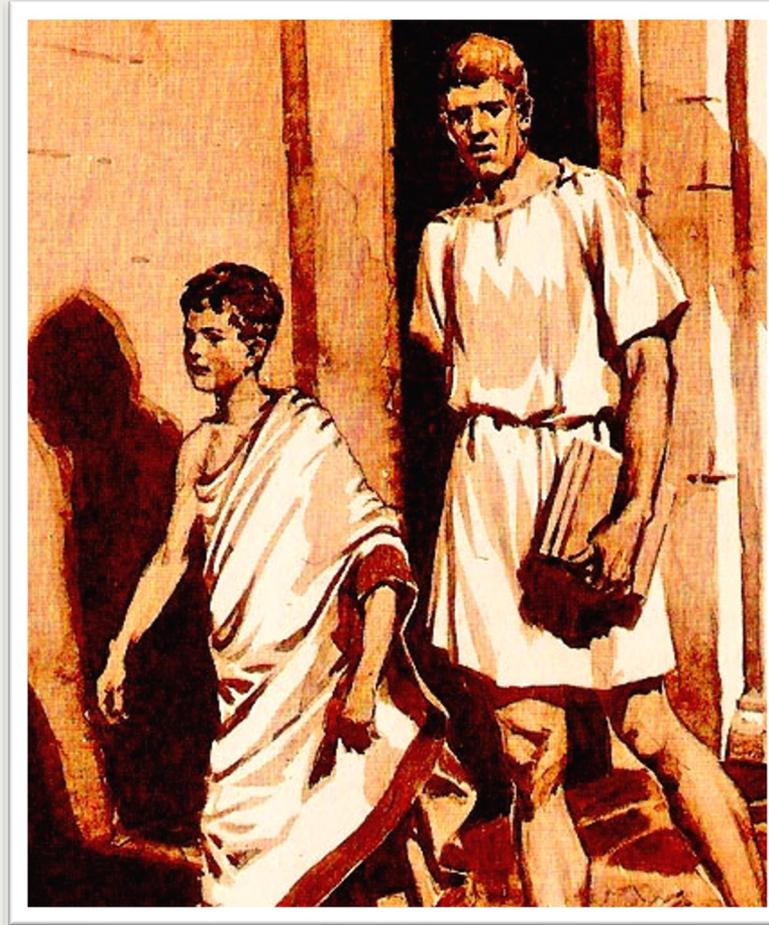
### Greek-Roman culture:

- **NOT** a teacher, a chaperone who was supposed he guard his safety and behaviour including morals.
- Literally means: “child-leader” or “child-guide”



**Who was the guardian?**  
(paidagogos)

- Usually a **trusted household slave**
- Assigned to a **freeborn boy (not slave)**
- Responsible from about age 6 until adolescence (sometimes 16–18)



**What did he do?**

- Escorted the child to school
- Supervised behaviour
- Enforced discipline
- Protected from moral danger
- Reported misconduct to the father



## Importantly the guardian (paidagogos):

- He had authority.
- He could correct and punish.
- But he did not give the child an inheritance.
- His role was temporary - when the child reached maturity, the paidagōgos' job ended.

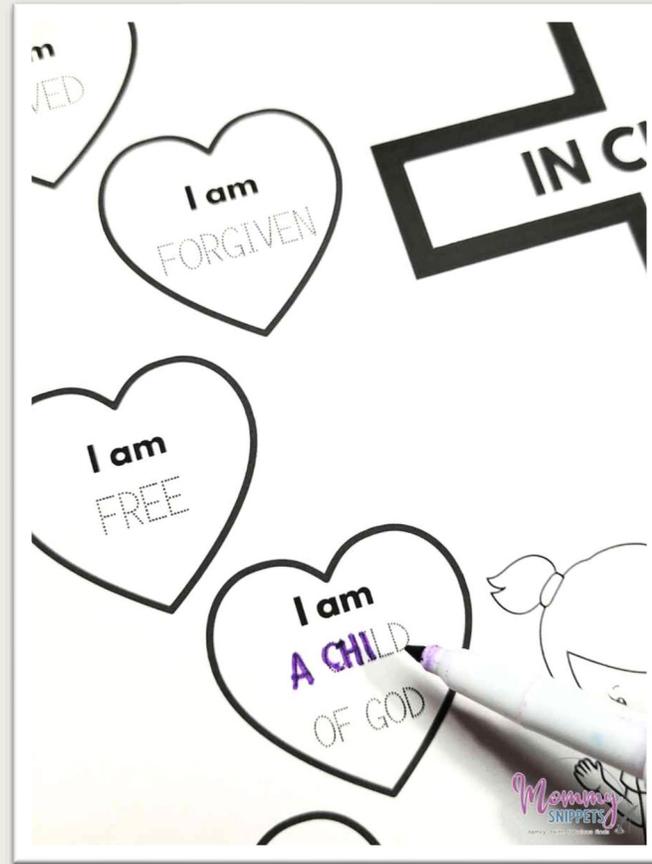
## That background is critical for Galatians:

Being under a guardian meant you were not yet fully adult.



## Under the guardian (paidagōgos):

- You are a minor.
- You are supervised.
- You are corrected.
- You do not yet possess full rights.

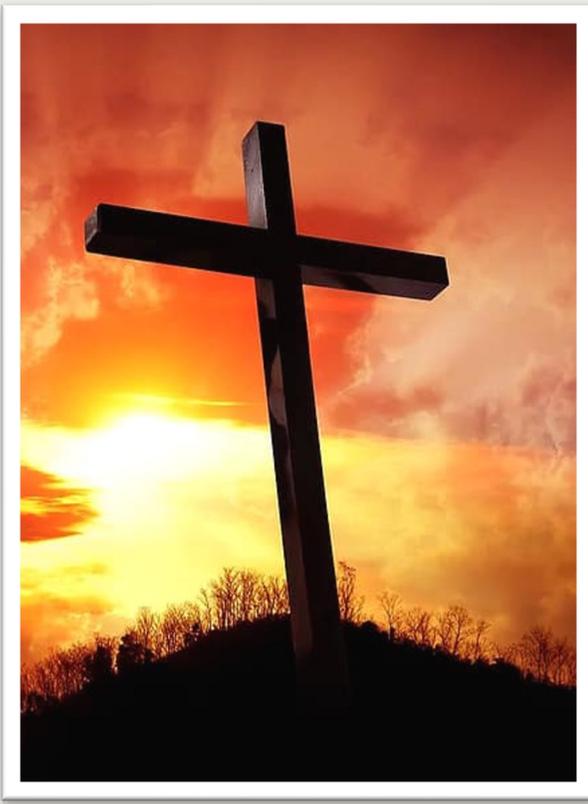


## In Christ:

- You are a son/daughter of God.
- You have inheritance.
- You relate to the Father directly.
- You are no longer under supervision of law.

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**Paul moves from:**

Guardian → Sonship

Minor → Heir

External regulation → Internal relationship

**PINNACLE: WHO WE NOW ARE IN CHRIST  
(Gal 3v. 26–29)**

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# PAUL MOVES FROM HISTORY TO IDENTITY.

## The Believer's New Identity in Christ (v. 26-29)

- Sons, not slaves
- Clothed, not condemned
- One people, not divided
- Heirs, not outsiders



# WE ARE SONS OF GOD THROUGH FAITH (V. 26)

*“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God,  
through faith.”*

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# “Sons” is not about gender but status & inheritance.

## It means:

- Legal heirs & inheritance
- Full legal status confirmed – completely accepted
- No second-class believers
  
- Not servants.
- Not minors.
- Not probationers.
- Not spiritual outsiders.



**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT SLAVERY UNDER  
LAW BUT SONSHIP THROUGH GRACE.**

**God's saving plan was never behaviour  
modification, never about learning to manage  
our sin better**

**IT WAS & IS PROMISE FULFILMENT.**

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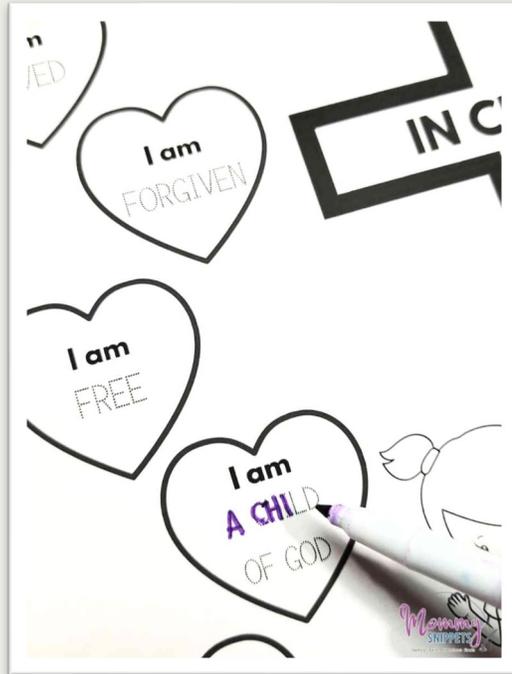
# WE ARE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST (V. 27)

*“As many of you as were baptized into Christ  
have put on Christ.”*



# To “put on” Christ means:

- To be clothed
- To take on identity
- To belong to Him visibly



## Your identity is no longer:

- Ethnic background
- Moral living
- Ceremonial cleanness
- Social standing

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**YOU DO NOT ACHIEVE RIGHTEOUSNESS —  
YOU WEAR CHRIST.**

***“I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.”***

***Isaiah 61:10 NIVUK***

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# WE ARE ONE AND WE ARE HEIRS (V. 28–29)

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek... slave nor free... male and female...”*

**Kerry: Visual element**



# At TCC we are INTERCULTURAL

Different accents/Different backgrounds/Different social histories.

## In Christ:

- No second-class Christian.
- No culturally superior believer.
- No spiritually elite group.

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# In Christ we are not divided by:

- Education
- Race
- Economic class
- Gender
- Immigration status

**WE ARE ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING -  
HEIRS ACCORDING TO PROMISE.**

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“If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

**This is the full circle back to v.15.**

- Not law-keepers.
- Not ethnic descendants.
- But faith-united believers.

This is the formation of the true covenant family.



# Conclusion & Prayer Ministry

1. Are you living like a slave?
2. Are you wearing your past instead of Christ?
3. Are you treating others as unequal heirs?

