

Understanding the Law Galatians 3:19-29

I. Function of the Law - 3:19, 22

1. It was given to help define sin - 19
Measured human behavior by God's holiness
Made aware of need of atonement - Rom.7:7
2. It was intended to be temporary - 19
Added "until" the "seed" should come
One in fulfillment of promise (Jesus Christ)
3. A different kind of covenant - 19-20
Ordained by angels
Psa.68:17; Heb. 2:2; Acts 7:53
Given through a mediator – Exodus 19
Implying a 2 party covenant
God's covenant with Abraham was unilateral
4. Law not to replace covenant of promise
God's law & His promise, not in conflict - 21
Don't even think that for a moment
5. Law not to give life or righteousness - 21
Could not give life, no one could fully keep it
Could not declare righteous, only condemn
6. Purpose was to declare all sinners - 22
Established guilt, created need of a Savior
Prepared way for promise of God in Christ
Righteousness must come through faith

II. Focus of the Law - 3:23-25

1. Law pointed to new revelation - 23
Old Covenant pointed to future
Sacrifices, priesthood, Temple; were types
"kept" - idea of under protective custody
Aimed at what God would do in the future
2. Focus of law pointed to Christ - 24
Like a schoolmaster, governess until Christ
How we train children – "do's and don'ts"
It helped set limits, restrain effect of evil
To bring to justification by faith in Christ
3. Not needed when purpose is fulfilled – 25
Faith in Christ brings inner transformation
God's Law is written on our heart
Our spirit is regenerated – New birth
God's Spirit indwells to teach and enable

III. Full Son-ship in Christ - 3:25-29

1. Guardian not needed in maturity - 25
Freedom from restraint comes with maturity
2. Believers are mature sons of God - 26
Faith in Christ makes us adult sons
Why would we now go back under restraint
3. Spirit unites us with Christ - 27
This baptism described in 1 Cor. 12:12-13
Being in Christ we share His position as sons
4. Son-ship is shared by all in Christ - 28
No more divisive distinctions in Christ
No distinction between Jew & Gentile

No distinction between Slave & Free
No distinction between Male & Female
All in Christ share position as adult sons
We are all one in Christ.

5. All in Christ are Abraham's seed - 29
Since Christ is Abraham's seed (v.16)
All who are in Christ are Abraham's seed
6. Now heirs to Abraham's promise - 29
God's blessings enjoyed by those in Christ
Now God's chosen people – 1 Pet. 2:9-10