

From Slavery to Sonship **Galatians 4:1-7**

I. Paul's Illustration

1. Help us grasp our position in Christ
 - Free from bondage of law
 - Free to live as adult sons
2. Illustration common in their culture
 - Boy passed into manhood in a point of time
 - For Jews it was at age twelve at a Bar Mitzvah
 - For Greeks it was at age eighteen
 - For Romans a time determined by the father
 - Roman celebration involved change of clothes
 - Meant the privileges of adulthood & heirship
 - Romans spoke of it as Adoption of sons
3. Being mature no one wants to go back

I. Position of a Minor Child - 4:1-3

1. Child is heir but unable to enjoy it - 1, 2
 - Gal. 3:29 - heirs to blessings of Abraham
 - Child is not free to enjoy that inheritance
 - In our culture inheritance may be in a trust
 - In reality a minor is much like a servant
 - Not free to choose, under authority of another
 - Under tutors, governors until mature
 - Tutors are in authority for purpose of instruction
 - Governors exercise discipline, work on character
 - Father set time when minor reached sonship
 - Minor child lives under regulation set by an adult
2. One under law is much like this - 3
 - Like minor child, need set boundaries
 - Like minor child, in bondage to basics
 - "Elements of the world" refers to basic ABC's
 - Term used in v. 9, Col. 2:8, 20, Heb. 5:12
 - Word "elements" things placed in a row, ABC's
 - Refers to elementary principles taught children
 - Children taught by rote repetition & regulation
 - Little children are unable to deal with concepts
 - Can't set time priorities, schedule is regulated
 - Don't understand good nourishment, control diet
 - Don't have monetary values, limit their resources
 - This is what God did under the law
 - Set times for worship, rest, diet, tithe for giving

III. Privilege of a Mature Son - 4:4-7

1. God set time for release from bondage - 4
 - Heavenly Father set the fullness of time
 - Time set in Daniel and other prophets
 - When law fulfilled its purpose, all was ready
2. Sent His Son to deliver from bondage - 4-5
 - He became a man, one with us
 - But He was perfect, absolutely sinless
 - He lived in obedience to law
 - As a man He was absolutely righteous

- He came to redeem those under the law
 - He fulfilled law's demands, setting us free
3. In Christ we enjoy adoption of sons - 5
 - Free from regulation of the law
 - We now serve God as His sons
 - Like God's Son we desire to please the Father
 - To live in harmony with His will as His sons
 4. God gave us His Spirit to empower us - 6
 - Spirit prompts us to want to please God
 - Spirit enables us to live in harmony with God
 - Spirit makes it a New Covenant - Ezek. 36:26-27
 - He regenerates us, transforms us from within
 - He empowers us to live righteously - Rom. 8:2-4
 - Spirit teaches us of this Father/son relationship
 - He prompts us to cry to a loving, caring Father
 - Love is now our motivation - 1 John 4:19
 - Love wants to please the one we love
 5. Not a servant but a son, an heir - 7
 - Ultimate result of Christ's redemptive work
 - Romans 8:17, 28-30
 - Why would you want to return under the law