

Living Connections Bible Study

Heirs of God

Freedom and Responsibility

Text: Galatians 4:1-11

Prayer

Icebreaker: What does it mean to be an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ?
Galatians 3:16, 26-29; Romans 8:16-17; 1 Peter 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:9

1. How do we become sons/daughters of God? Galatians 3:26; John 1:12

2. In Paul's day, in wealthy households, who was in charge of training the children?
Galatians 4:1-2; 3:24

When a Roman father considered his boy mature enough to accept the responsibilities of manhood he would hold an adoption ceremony called the *toga virilis*. Family and friends were invited to witness the celebration. The father would bring out a toga robe and place it on his son. A signet ring was placed on the young man's finger giving him the right to transact business in the family name. And never again was the young man to be under the authority of the pedagogue, the child trainer.

3. When we were redeemed from the curse of the Law and adopted into God's family what marvelous provision did God make for us in Christ? Isaiah 61:10

4. What other privilege do we now have in Christ? John 14:13-14; 16:23-24; Luke 15:20-22

Think of it! In Christ we have become heirs of God! All the promises of God have become available to us in Christ. The Father doesn't answer our prayers because of who we are, but because of our position in His beloved Son.

5. Before we were adopted by God into the privileges of adult sons/daughters to what were we enslaved? Galatians 4:3-5

6. What wonderful privilege do we have toward God now that we have become His beloved children? Galatians 4:6-7; Romans 8:15-17

Paul's reasoning with the Galatian believers is this: *Since you have become an heir of God, and a child of God, with all of the rights and privileges of an adult son, why would you want to forfeit your freedom in Christ to become a slave again to the Law?*

7. What kind of slavery does Paul accuse the Galatian believers of returning to?
Galatians 4:8-11; John 8:31-33

Of all forms of slavery, none are as subtle, binding, and blinding as religious slavery.

8. What kind of bondage is Judaism under regarding *days, months, seasons, and years, and how were these holy days and seasons fulfilled in Christ?* Galatians 4:10; Colossians 2:17

Think about it this week:

- Jesus has become my **Sabbath**. I no longer rest in the day of the week but in the finished work of Christ for my salvation.
- Jesus is my **Passover** sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- Jesus fulfilled the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** as the Bread of Life, my sinless sacrifice
- Jesus fulfilled the **Feast of Firstfruits** as the first to rise from the dead
- Jesus fulfilled the **Feast of Pentecost** by sending me the Holy Spirit
- Jesus will be Israel's Redeemer on the **Day of Atonement** at His Second Coming
- Jesus is my **Jubilee**, having canceled my debt on the cross and He set me free from Satan, sin and the Law