

Galatians 4:1 *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,*

The Greek word for child is nepios and means immature Christian. A child is referring to someone under the law. The same Greek word for child is used in Hebrews 5:13 and is referring to someone that is unskilled or ignorant in the word or righteousness.

A slave is someone who is constantly being told what to do and where to go. He is led by rules and regulations but a son rest in his inheritance and has full access to it. The problem is that a son can own the whole estate and have the entire kingdom of God at his disposal but still think he has to earn God's acceptance and work towards Him blessing them and they never experience what is already theirs. This verse is saying someone who is still trying to perform to please God is no different than a slave even though they are a son.

This is similar to my son coming home and thinking he has to work and do all these things for me to provide him dinner. His mentality is off because his position is that he is my son, the entire refrigerator he has access to eat all he wants but he has limited himself in thinking he has to do all these things. His reality is that He is a son, but his mentality is that of a slave. The refrigerator is at his disposal because of **who he is, not because of what he does.**

Many believers today are still thinking they need to strive to please God. The Lord has **already** prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies; there are no enemies in heaven, so this verse is not speaking of a future table but now. We need to stop seeing ourselves under the table trying to get a crumb and start seeing ourself at the table with all of God's provision ready to be taken advantage of.

Much of the church is still on milk and this is referring to a believer who is an immature Christian that is unskilled in the word of righteousness. Meaning, they have not become established in justification by faith and are not yet on solid food (Heb 5:13-14).

Galatians 4:2 *but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.*

ALL THINGS ARE YOURS (1 Cor 3:21) but a believer can be no different from a slave even though he holds the position of a son. We have access to the Father now and all its benefits because of our position in Christ. We will never receive anything from God based off our own holiness. We should stop pressing in to God as us wanting Him to bless us off our goodness (which we really do not want) and walk in as HIM and we will receive every time.

God sees Jesus when He looks at us, the problem is we don't. Many of us relate to God based off our behavior. None of us would have fellowship with God if it was dependent on our behavior.

Galatians 4:3 *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.*

The Greek word for bondage is douloō and means to make a slave of. As a son it is bondage to place ourself under a system that demands rules and regulations. The enemy loves law keeping

because we all know when we fall short and if we base our relationship with God off our performance it will keep us from God. The gospel is not about how good we are, it is about how good Jesus was on our behalf.

Anyone can understand if I do good, I get good. The entire world operates on that system. That is not the gospel and the ways of this world will always keep us from receiving from God because we base our receiving off our performing. The moment we mess up we turn from God because we allow the enemy to tell us we are not good enough and God will never accept us. This is not true. No matter how much we fall short, God is pleased with us because it is not about our obedience, but Jesus (Rom 5:19).

The enemy has been disarmed because his greatest tool was to use the law to tell us we don't measure up and God will never accept us. When Jesus came, He fulfilled the law for us and nailed it to the cross, now the very thing that the enemy used to condemn us with, he now stands condemned (Col 2:14-15).

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Jesus came as early as He could come. Some may ask why didn't He come sooner, but in order for man to cry out to be saved they first had to realize they were lost. The law came to show us we needed Jesus and to point us to Him (Gal 3:24). He also had to be spoken of to come to earth. Our world is governed by words and God could not just come down on His own, He had given the earth to man (Ps 8:5-6, Ps 115:16) and man had to prophecy Him coming. We see this all throughout the Old Testament. Every book of the Bible mentions Jesus even though it may not be as obvious.

The key to understanding the importance of the virgin birth is that Jesus was sinless thus why hell could not hold Him and how He rose from the dead and could offer the payment of sin for anyone who would believe. The seed of man was fallen and everyone born in the world is born with the seed of Adam, which was a sin nature. God had to by-pass the seed of man and implant His seed in Mary to avoid the fallen nature of man. Jesus was born of God and had no sin in Him (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21).

Paul was an intellect and said that Jesus **knew** no sin (2 Cor 5:21). Peter was a man of action and said, Jesus **did** no sin (1 Peter 2:22). John was a man of love and said **in** Jesus, was no sin (1 John 3:5). In other words, there is no sin!

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Two things are very important to understand, God redeemed us out from under the law (all the dos and don'ts) so that we could be adopted as sons with total access to the Father.

Jesus was born under the Old Covenant Mosaic law and fulfilled all the requirements that it demanded (Matthew 5:17). In what our flesh was weak to do in trying to fulfill the law, God did by sending His Son (Rom 8:3). The only way anyone could escape hell is to be perfect and provide death for the payment of sin. We all deserve death or ultimate separation from God but God was not satisfied with man living eternity in hell so He came down as a man and lived out the law perfectly. He then went to hell and took the keys of death hell and the grave, rose because hell can only hold those with sin and since He fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the law, He offers righteousness now to all who believe and now God can legally bless us with all that we need because justice has been satisfied and grace can now reign through righteousness (Rom 5:21).

Jesus paid a bill that He did not owe, which was our bill that we could not pay.

It is one thing to be set free as a slave and go about our way but it is another level to be loosed from slavery and brought into the master's house and be made a son. Only God could come up with such an awesome plan or redemption.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

The moment we put faith in what Jesus came to accomplish on our behalf God sends His spirit into the heart of a believer. Many believers have no idea what takes place at salvation. We think we are forgiven and that we have to wait to get to heaven to experience victory but we are right now as identical to Jesus as we will ever be in our spirit.

"Abba Father" is speaking of calling God our daddy which shows the gospel is meant to bring us into intimacy with God.

When we are born again God sends His spirit into our hearts and we become united with the Lord and become One spirit (1 Cor 6:17) and now as He is so are we in this world (1 Jn 4:17). We become new creatures with the life of God inside of us and with the power of God residing in us (2 Cor 5:17, Eph 1:18).

Galatians 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The word servant in Greek can be exchanged with slave. A slave is in a constant state of doing. This is what religion does. It focuses on the outer man and it is always man's attempt to appease an angry God. The goal of the cross was to bring us into relationship with the Father. **In order to receive from God, we must be liberated from all religion, legalism, and self-righteousness.**

Religion will always distort the true nature of God. Jesus is the full revelation of the Father (1 Jn 5:20, Heb 1:3). During Jesus' earthly ministry He was dealing with the Jews who were trying to have a relationship with God based off a religious system that kept them in bondage (John 8:32). The Jews were in bondage to Rome and believed they weren't captive to anyone. Jesus was

telling the Jews that were so bound in a self-righteous system that they couldn't even see the bondage they were in.

This is similar to many believers today. Many are so busy trying to perform for God and think that they are getting closer to Him, yet they are in bondage only getting further away.

Galatians 4:8 *But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.*

This verse says that when they did not know God. This word know in Greek is *eidō* and means to experience any state or condition. Before Jesus, no one could fully know God but now we know Him and have seen Him, through the person of Jesus (Jn 14:7).

Before coming to Christ, the Galatians served gods who were not really gods because they had no power. We serve a living powerful God.

Galatians 4:9 *But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?*

Idols are similar to religion in that both have to follow all kinds of rituals, both are bondage. Before they worshiped idols and had to follow rules and now, they are born again free from all the rules but have moved into legalism which is no different than when they worshiped idols.

A believer has zero relationship with the law. The law is only used to show someone they need Jesus, and once they come to Jesus the law has served its purpose. The law could diagnose the problem but could not provide us with the cure, only point us to it. Jesus is the cure.

Galatians 4:10 *You observe days and months and seasons and years.*

Paul goes into the observance of days and abstaining from food heavily in Romans chapter fourteen. There he speaks of a believer's liberty from the Old Testament days to observe and freedom from abstaining from certain foods and as long as a believer is not doing those things in order to be in right standing with God, it is okay.

Days and foods were stumbling blocks to the Jews. They were only types and shadows and pointed us to what Jesus would come to accomplish (Col 2:16).

Galatians 4:11 *I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.*

Paul's heart was that the believers stay walking in the freedom in Christ and keep their faith solely on Him and not their own works. This was the heart of the letter.

Many people do not believe ministers should be paid for their work and do not feel ministry is work. That is opposite of what the word teaches. Those who labor in word of doctrine should be

worthy of double hour or paid twice as much (1 Tim 5:17). The apostle Paul said he labored in advancing the gospel (Col 1:29).

Galatians 4:12 *Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.*

In this verse, Paul is saying that he wants the Galatians to be like him (someone who is now free from the law) because he had become like them. The Galatians were once not following all these rules to be right with God and Paul is saying he became like them, someone free from all the work that religion brings. He is not wanting the Galatians to go into what Paul once was in bondage to which was self-righteousness.

Many churches today are teaching from Mount Sinai where the law was given. They are ministering to their members a performance-based system and saying God won't bless you if you don't do right. Again, we are not under a performance-based system. We need to move the pool pit from Mount Sinai to Mount Zion and stake it there.

Galatians 4:13 *You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.*

People have used this verse to say Paul was sick and they tie 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10 to say Paul asked God to take this sickness away three times and God said His grace was sufficient. It is true that Paul was experiencing a physical infirmity but it is not true that it was a sickness. Paul was preaching in the region of Antioch, Lystra, Iconium, and Derbe where he was persecuted and was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19). When he got up, he walked close to 20 miles to the Galatians and showed up there and it is possible his body was still recovering from the stoning he just faced.

Galatians 4:14 *And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.*

Paul is now reminding the Galatians of how they once received him and using that to show them that their love for him was so strong and they needed to remember that love because what he is saying now is the truth, they could trust him.

When we hear the Gospel, it is God's love that restrains and compels us to live holy then there is no longer a need for the law because love fulfills the law (Rom 13:10).

Galatians 4:15 *What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.*

What a blessing and joy it brings when we get a revelation that God does not relate to us based off our performance. The Galatians were beginning to fall away from this joy by moving into rules and rituals.

People will use this verse and connect it to the previous verses and say the infirmity Paul had was an ancient eye disease. This was a figure of speech that Paul was using and basically saying something similar to I would give you the shirt off my back or cut my arm off for you. That does not mean the person does not have a shirt or does not have an arm but is an expression of their love for them.

Galatians 4:16 *Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?*

Truth is true regardless if we believe it or not. Truth remains true apart from man's opinion. God's truth is Jesus and that is the only way to receive salvation (Jn 14:6).

Galatians 4:17 *They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.*

Those trying to turn the Galatians to legalism are only focused on themselves. Anyone who rejects Jesus becomes their own savior and their god is their belly (Phil 3:19). Religious people are always focused on themselves and their good works and as a result it turns people from Jesus.

Galatians 4:18 *But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.*

To be zealous is not bad, what matters is what we are zealous about. Paul was so zealous in religion that he persecuted the church and dragged Christians out of their homes (Phil 3:6, Acts 22:3-4). Zeal is good but it needs to be with knowledge (Rom 10:2).

Galatians 4:19 *My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,*

Jesus is already inside every believer but when we place ourselves under legalism the life of God within us we are separated from it being released (Eph 4:18).

This verse also implies that the Galatians had not lost their salvation, only had they begun to fall from grace.

Galatians 4:20 *I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.*

This was not Paul's most heartfelt message. The gospel is the power of God that leads to deliverance, healing, or anything else that God has provided through salvation (Rom 1:16). Paul took it very serious when he heard of the Galatians moving away from Christ paid it all, to they too have to pay something because it voids what Jesus came to do. Paul understood the consequences of moving into religion and had no room for it.

The word doubts in Greek is *aporeō* and means to be perplexed. It is very perplexing to believe that one could experience such liberty, but then move into placing the burden of salvation back on themselves.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?

Paul is about to move into his greatest example and comparison of the law and grace by using two Old Testament women. Here, he is saying that a person who is trying to earn right standing with God through their holiness truly does not know what the law says. The law has 613 commands that has to be performed perfectly, if one point is missed the entire law is broken (Gal 3:10, Jam 2:10).

This is similar to a teacher giving a test and saying here is this 1,000 question test that you must take in less than 1 minute. If you get all 999 questions right but still miss one, you do not receive an A but an F. It is either a perfect score or you fail.

The good news is that the teacher could give this test but then say either you can take it and attempt to make a perfect score or there is a person that has already taken the test and scored a 100% all you need to do is receive the test He took and add your name to His paper and you pass. Anyone who is not so prideful would hear this and say thank God I will receive the person who scored 100% on my behalf. Only someone who is so caught up in themselves and their ability would reject the other person's test.

This is exactly what Jesus did. He took the 613 commands and lived them perfectly for us. I just join myself to Him and now I have fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law as well.

Gal 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

Paul is now about to compare Sarah and Hagar to symbolize two covenants; law and grace. Hagar represents the law and Sarah represents grace. God gave Abraham a promise but Abraham initially got in the flesh and decided to try to "do" to get, and he had Ishmael. This was not the promise child that God had spoken to Abraham. The next time Abraham simply believed God and had Issac which was the promise child.

This is symbolic of law and grace because one child was produced out of works and the flesh (Ishmael) while the other came from belief and faith (Issac).

Galatians 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

When God gave Abraham the promise he got into works and had relations with Hagar and produces Ishmael. Anytime we start something in the flesh we have to maintain it by the flesh. The promise was still valid but once Abraham believed God and had relations with his wife, he was able to produce the promise. Abraham was looking at himself to get done what God said. When Abraham still had strength and trusting in himself, he did not produce the promise but when he let go of his own ability he was able to bare the promise.

This is how salvation and any other promise is that God gives. When God gives a promise, it is not for us to try to perform and make it happen through offering our good works. It is simply to believe what He said by faith (Heb 11:11).

Galatians 4:24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar

Hagar is symbolic of works of the flesh and is bondage. Anytime we get into self-effort we have put ourself in a position of operating in our own strength and ability and we are powerless.

Mount Sinai is where the law was given. Mount Sinai was where the law was given and 3,000 people died. We are in a better covenant established on better promises and the old covenant has been nullified (Heb 7:18-19). When God's spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost 3,000 people got saved.

Galatians 4:25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children

The earthly Jerusalem as a whole has rejected Jesus and is in bondage. The Jews are still in bondage because they are under the law. It is bondage to try and work towards pleasing God or earning God's favor.

Gal 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

The heavenly Jerusalem is symbolic of those who have put faith in Jesus finished works and are free. Free from rules and regulations and we are free in the since that we can rest it what Jesus has done for us, not what we do for Him.

The first covenant required man to work for six days then rest. Under the new covenant we enter into Jesus finished works and we start with rest, which then empowers us to work (Heb 4:10). To rest means to cease from your own works.

Galatians 4:27 For it is written: "rejoice, o barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband."

This is a quotation taken from Isaiah 54:1. Sarah who was once barren and could not bear children now has more children than Hagar because those born of the spirit by faith in Jesus are Abrahams true descendants (Gal 3:7).

This also can show what we could not do in our flesh we can do through the spirit because God's ability is us and we now have something to shout about. A believers strength comes from the inside and we draw it out (Phil 2:12-13).

Galatians 4:28 *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise*

We are now Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise because we have put faith in the Seed (Gal 3:29). We are not children of the bond woman Hagar, but are children of the free woman Sarah.

Anyone born again has the same father Abraham, but our mothers could be different. Those who are trying to work to please God are identifying with Hagar but those who are trusted in Jesus' finished works are of the free woman Sarah.

This is illustrated in the Parable of the Prodigals Son (Luke 15: 11-32). The older son was offering his efforts and works for the father to be pleased with him, while the entire time the father was pleased with him regardless of his efforts (Luke 15:29-32).

Galatians 4:29 *But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.*

Legalism will always persecute grace. Ishmael was born of the flesh and persecuted Issac. A person who has a works mentality will always judge those who are not living up to their standard of holiness. Legalism persecutes grace because it is offensive for them to hear that their good works mean nothing and God accepts a person who is not living as holy as them just as much as He accepts someone who is.

Jesus came to the world to save the sinner (1 Tim 1:15, Luke 19:10).

The word persecute in Greek is diōkō and means to harass or to seek after eagerly. People who are entangled with legalism will always be looking for what is wrong with others. Joesph had a coat of many colors that had long sleeves that in those days showed someone who did not work. Joesphs brothers became jealous of him and threw him in the pit because their father Jacob showed favoritism toward Joesph. This is exactly what legalism is. Those who work to try to earn the Father's favor will hate those who are accepted by Him independent of their works.

Galatians 4:30 *Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."*

Legalism never thinks that grace is sufficient for a believer to live a holy life. They believe if you tell a congregation God loves you independent of their performance that they will go and live in sin but grace simply reveals what is in your heart. If you hear the Gospel and think, great God loves me, now I can live how I want, you probably are not born again because we have a new nature that does not want to sin (Rom 6:2).

Religion will always want to bring Hagar back but the problem with drawing people to the Lord with rules and consequences is that it brings fear and fear has torment (1 John 4:18). God has a better way to draw his people and it is through love (Rom 2:4, Jer 31:3).

The church in a sense is saying bring back Hagar (law) because Sarah (grace) is not sufficient to raise Issac. The enemy is always trying to separate Grace and Faith because that is where the power is and the promise is produced. Abraham is the father of faith and we are the children of promise and access God's grace through faith (Rom 5:2). Grace is God's part, Faith is our part and the only way we receive from God is through faith (Rom 5:17).

God so loved the world not hated. So, the question is if I am free to do what I want and God is not judging me what will compel me to live right? Many believers fear grace because they think that since they are free what will restrict them. For the love of Christ compels us (2 Cor 5:14).

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

We are not children of the law but we are children of grace. The law was never meant for us to overcome sin, its intent was to strengthen sin (1 Cor 15:56). Why would God give something to strengthen sin? Because sin already had us beaten. The law was given because sin had gotten so out of hand but was never given for us to overcome it (Gal 3:19). When the law came there was no more deception of right and wrong and came to show us not what we were doing right but what we did wrong and expose how much we have failed and how much we have missed it. Once we see how lost we are, we are then in a great position to receive Jesus.

The law is called the ministry of condemnation and the ministry of death (2 Cor 3:7-9). Its purpose was to show us how unholy we were so that we would not think we were good enough and it would bring us to Christ. The law is not for a believer because they have come to Christ and its true target was to the Jews (Rom 3:19).