

Grace Relationship

Galatians Chapter 4

Ch. 1-2 Experience with Grace

Ch. 3-4 Doctrine of Grace

Ch. 5-6 Application of Grace

Gal 4:1 1) Relationship as Family vs 1-11

Natural Journey

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,

Gal 4:2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

- Paul uses a natural course of life to illustrate the relationship between the Law and Grace.
- When we are children we are under babysitters, guardians and authorities that govern our lives. In Paul's example he refers to a child of the owners of a wealthy household. The household even has slaves.
- The child, though he is the heir, is not different than the slave: A very young child may actually be under the care and supervision of a slave. The slave would have a rule over the child.
- "Until the date set by the father"
 - Jewish custom was the age of 13 a boy becomes accountable to God. Maturity may actually come later and some Jewish thought was at age of 28.
 - Roman custom was not a particular age but a time when the father determined.
 - The Romans had a festival called the Liberalia that was held on the 17th of March. At this time the boy would offer the children's charms on the altar of Liber Pater. This was an action declaring the putting away of childish things. From this point the boy would also cease wearing the child's toga (toga praetexta) and begin wearing a man's toga. (toga virilis)
 - Paul is using a Roman custom in describing the Relationship as Sons Through Grace.
- As a side note, our culture seems to demand an age in which a child becomes mature and responsible. Most states the determined age is 18. I believe we have lost a true measure of maturity is the evaluation from the father.

Gal 4:3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

Spiritual Journey

- Paul describes our spiritual journey.
- While children we were under the care of a guardian.
- That guardian was the Law- Galatians 3:23-24 *"But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law... the Law has become our tutor {to lead us} to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith"*
- "elemental things" - the basics. (Barclay calls this the ABCs of the universe.) The basic teaching of good and bad. Be good and you will receive good. Do bad and you will receive bad in return.
- Jesus and Grace do not conform to these teachings. Colossians 2:20 *"If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees"*

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Gal 4:5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- "the fullness of time" - when it was just right. Who knows when that was? The Father.
- God (the Father) sent forth His Son
 - Born of a woman - implying fully God and Fully man
 - Born under the Law not to do away with it. But to fulfill it. The law is good if it is used lawfully (1 Timothy 1:8)
- The purpose was to redeem man and to bring mankind out from under the guardian and to bring him into adoption as sons. And not just to redeem but to also bring us to the Father to be adopted.
THE LAW CAN NEVER ACCOMPLISH THIS.
ONLY GRACE CAN CHANGE OUR FAMILY.

Gal 4:6

The benefits of being Family

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Gal 4:7

Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

- Benefits of Being Adopted into the Family
 - Being Chosen - God has chosen (adoption assumes being chosen)
 - Being Alike - The Spirit of His Son (Jesus) in our hearts
 - Having Intimacy - The Spirit in our hearts crying Abba! Father "pater = father" "abba = daddy"
 - The Old Family has No Rights to Us - No longer a slave
 - Having Privilege and Same Status as Brothers and Sisters in New Family - but a son
 - Having an Inheritance - then an heir (New Heaven, New Earth, Eternal Life)

Somebody once said: "If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it; if God had a wallet, your picture would be in it."

Gal 4:8

Back to the Galatians

However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

Gal 4:9

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Gal 4:10

You observe days and months and seasons and years.

Gal 4:11

I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

- Paul addresses the Galatians again. Paul wonders why after being adopted and receiving great benefits, why they would return to the orphanage.
- Those that turn to legalism are returning to an old error not becoming entrapped with a new.

Gal 4:12

Reminds them of their friendship

2) Relationship as Friends vs 12-20

I beg of you, brethren, become as I {am,} for I also {have become} as you {are.} You have done me no wrong;

- Paul appeals to the Galatians as a friend.
- "Become as I am" - What is Paul asking? Is he asking them to look upon him rather than Jesus? NO! He is trying to show them that he was once a zealot for the Law and that he has found the liberty to be free from the Law to live unto Jesus.
- His freedom allowed him to become as they were. Free from religion.
- Paul tells them that they have not offended him personally. That his strong rebuke is for their well being not just out of a hurt he felt.

1. Friendship Built on Grace Shares the Journey in Christ

Gal 4:13

but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;

Gal 4:14

and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus {Himself.}

- Acts 13 we saw Paul on his 1st missionary journey. Paul came to the region of Pamphylia to Perga specifically. Scholars believe that in this region was affected with malaria and that Paul contacted this malaria and retreated inland to higher ground. He went to the area of Galatia.



- The Galatians were not disgusted with Paul and his illness but received the message of Jesus Christ.

2. Friendship Built on Grace Gives Even When You Are In Need Yourself

3. Friendship Built on Grace Loves Even When Unlovely

Gal 4:15 Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.

- Paul reminds them of how strong their friendship was, that they would have plucked their own eyes out and given them to him if it would have helped.

4. Friendship Built on Grace Blesses Even to the Point of Personal Loss

Gal 4:16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

- Paul says this is odd, I have become your enemy by telling you that you don't have to be circumcised.

5. Friendship Built on Grace Speaks the Truth

Gal 4:17 They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

- The Judaizers seek them but only to spurn them to envy through the Law so that they (the Judaizers) would be sought out. Their goal isn't the well being of the Galatians but their goal is to be preeminent.
- The Judaizers were zealous for the Galatians only to win converts so they will be zealous for the cause.
- Christians need to be careful to be zealous for people because they love people not to gain converts for the church. We need to love people.

Gal 4:18 But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.

- It is good to be sought for and it is good to encourage each other in our walk, and it is good all the time not just when the pastor or someone important is watching. It should be happening all the time.

6. Friendship Built on Grace Loves the Person not What They and Add or Do for Them

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you--

Gal 4:20 but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

- Paul isn't giving up. He is committed to the Galatians that they would know Christ and the grace He grants them

7. Friendship Built on Grace Points Friends to Christ

Gal 4:21 **3) Relationship as Figurative** vs 21-31

Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?

Gal 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.

- You want the law? Well, learn from it. Here is the story.
- The bondwoman - HAGAR a servant in Abraham's household from Egypt
- The free woman - SARAH was the wife of Abraham

Gal 4:23 But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.

- The Old Testament account is figurative of Paul's present day. Two Covenants.
- The Bondwoman - child born by man's attempt to fulfill the promise. This offspring was according to the flesh (fear, discouragement, uncertainty, unbelief) **MAN HELPING GOD OUT**
- The Free Woman - child born by God's fulfillment of the promise. (faith, patience, trust Glory to God) **GOD HELPING MAN OUT**

WHICH ONE DESCRIBES YOUR CHRISTIANITY?

Gal 4:24 This is allegorically speaking, for these {women} are two covenants: one {proceeding} from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.

Gal 4:25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

- The beginning of this covenant was based upon man's effort. It became a bondage, for it must be maintained by man's effort as well.
- The intention wasn't to become enslaved, but that was the outcome.
- Paul states that this is the condition of Jerusalem in his day. (Enslaved)

UNDER THE LAW THE FOCUS IS WHAT YOU DO FOR GOD THAT MAKES YOU ACCEPTABLE. (MAN CENTERED)

Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

- Jerusalem above (not in Paul's day but in Abraham's Day) The promised Heavenly Jerusalem
- This woman becomes a mother because of God fulfilling a promise.

Gal 4:27 For it is written, "REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR; BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR; FOR MORE NUMEROUS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND."

- Quoted from Isaiah 54:1

Gal 4:28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

- Believers "Saved By Grace" are like Isaac. Born again because of a fulfilled promise.

UNDER GRACE THE FOCUS IS WHAT GOD DOES FOR YOU THAT MAKES YOU ACCEPTABLE. (GOD CENTERED)

Gal 4:29 But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him {who was born} according to the Spirit, so it is now also.

Gal 4:30 But what does the Scripture say? "CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN."

- The child of the bondwoman will be in conflict with the child of the free woman.
- The bondwoman must be cast out from the free woman.
- The Law must be cast out from Grace.
- The child of the bondwoman will not inherit anything (NOT BE AN HEIR)

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

- Paul concludes that the Galatians (believers) are children of the free woman.

- This chapter teaches us that the Law:
 - Is elementary teaching
 - Holds man in bondage
 - Will zealously seek you to be in bondage
 - Is Man Centered
 - Will Persecute Grace
 - Needs to be cast out
- This chapter teaches us that Grace:
 - Redeems us
 - Adopts us into a new family
 - Gives us true friends
 - Makes us a true friend
 - Sets us free
 - Fulfills a promise
 - Gives us an inheritance

**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**