

Gal 3:28-29 NIV There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

If you belong to Christ

- Remember, the promise was made to the SEED singular, which is Christ,
- Gal 3:16(b)...Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but **"and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.**
- So then, If we are in Christ, then we are Abraham's seed and therefore **heirs**

Gal 4:1-3 NIV What I am saying is that as long as an **heir is underage**, he is no different from a **slave, although he owns the whole estate**. 2 The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were underage, **we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.**

Example..."the child who is an heir"

In Roman customs a child was raised by a slave until what was called "*liberalia*" a date appointed by his father to become a man.

- The underage heir is no different from a slave
- The underage heir is subject to guardians and trustees
- The guardians and trustee- here called "the elemental spiritual forces of the world"

Gal 3:23 NIV Before the coming of this faith, **we were held in custody under the law**, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed.

The elemental spiritual forces of the world is the rules, human tradition, human commands and teachings, regulations

The idea of elemental (something like building blocks or 'ABC's') - a child learns his ABC's, but when he becomes a man it is unnecessary to revert back to learning the ABC's again.

- Col 2:8 NIV See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and **the elemental spiritual forces of this world** rather than on Christ...
- Col 2:20-23 NIV **Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:** (21) "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!?" (22) These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. (23) Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, **born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.** 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

You are a son & no longer a slave - you are an heir

God sent his son

- God sent his Son - (he could not have been sent if he did not exist beforehand) Trinity & Pre-existence of Christ - deity
- He was born of a woman - humanity
- He was born under the law
 - Subject to all its religious ordinances and obligations, its blessings and curses in order to redeem those who were under the law. A Gentile could not have saved the world from the curse of the law; Salvation for all had to begin with someone under the law for those under the law - so he was born UNDER THE LAW to redeem those UNDER THE LAW

All (Jew and Gentile) have been included in disobedience, so He can have mercy on all

- Rom 11:30-33 NIV Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. 32 For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts

- We receive adoption to sonship
- Now you are not longer a slave, but God's child and an heir

Rom 8:1-4 NIV Therefore, there is now no condemnation **for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 *because*** through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what **the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh**, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so **he condemned sin in the flesh**, 4 in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Rom 8:15-17 NIV **The Spirit you received does not make you slaves**, so that you live in fear again; rather, **the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.** And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 **Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Spirit of His Son

The Holy Spirit is called by different names in scripture, sometimes linked to the Father, sometimes linked to the Son. This is because the nature of God is consistent among the persons of the Trinity.

- Mat 10:20 NIV ...the Spirit of your Father
- Mat 12:28 NIV ...the Spirit of God
- Luk 4:18 NIV ... The Spirit of the Lord
- Act 16:7 NIV ...the Spirit of Jesus
- Rom 8:9 NIV ... the Spirit of Christ
- Gal 4:6 NIV ... the Spirit of his Son

8 Formerly, **when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.** 9 But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--**how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces?** Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? 10 You are observing special **days** and **months** and **seasons** and **years!** 11 I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

Turning back

- You were once a slave, now a son, why become enslaved again, why go backward
- Observing days, months and season, is taking him who is a son and enslaving him altogether again
- A fear that he had wasted his efforts on them

12 I plead with you, brothers and sisters, ***become like me, for I became like you.*** You did me no wrong. 13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, 14 and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, **you welcomed me** as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. 15 **Where, then, is your blessing of me now?** I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. 16 **Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?**

Become like me - for I became like you

1Co 9:19-21 NIV Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

The fickle nature of relationships where truth is spoken

- Paul essentially lived like a Gentile among them - yet under Christ's law
- His introduction to them was greatly received
- Now that he is telling them the truth about coming under the law - **he is perceived as an enemy**

17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. **What they want is to alienate you from us**, so that you may have zeal for them. 18 It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. 19 **My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you**, 20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

Judaizers motivation - to alienate them from Paul

- Judaizers were teaching them so they would become zealous **of their cause** (circumcision)
- It was a selfish reason/motivation - they didn't believe that Paul was upholding the law

Paul's motivation - that Christ would be formed in them

- 2Pe 1:3-4 NIV His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
- Rom 13:13-14 NIV Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, **clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.
- Luk 6:40 NIV The student is not above the teacher, but **everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher**.
- Col 3:7-10 NIV You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on **the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator**.
- Rom 8:29-30 NIV For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
- 2Co 3:16-18 NIV But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- Eph 4:11-13 NIV So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ

may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God **and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

- Col 1:27-29 NIV To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.** 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, **are you not aware of what the law says?** 22 For it is written that **Abraham had two sons**, one by the **slave** woman and the other by the **free** woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but **his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.** 24 These things are being taken figuratively: **The women represent two covenants.** One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. 25 Now **Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.** 26 **But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.**

Aren't you aware of what the law says?

The law itself, in the history of Abraham and his two sons, is an allegory comparing the slave (under the law) and the free (no longer under the law).

- The son by the **slave** woman was born according to the flesh
- The son of the **free** woman was born as a result of the divine promise

The women represent two covenants

The first covenant is from Mt Sinai (this is where the giving of the law took place - see Ex 24:16)

- Mother is Hagar (slave woman)
- Children are slaves
- Corresponds to Jerusalem

Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant

The Jerusalem that is above is free and she is our mother

- Heb 12:18-25 NIV You have not come to a mountain **[Sinai]** that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." 22 **But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.** You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 **to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,** and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of

Abel. 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

27 For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." 28 Now you, **brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.** 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does Scripture say? "**Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son.**" 31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

We, like Isaac, are children of promise

- The son born according to the flesh (Ishmael) persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit
- It is the same thing that is happening in Galatia
- Those of the works of the flesh (those trying to keep the law) are persecuting those born of the Spirit of God

The slave woman's son will not share in the inheritance

- The only way to inheritance is to become a son
- The only way to become a son, is to be in Christ
- Then the Father sends the Spirit of his Son into our hearts and we cry "Abba"

We are children of the free woman

- Gal 5:1 NIV **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.** Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.