
Study 6

Galatians 3:29-4:7 | Heirs vs. Slaves

Get Talking

1. Have you ever inherited something significant or interesting? Do you know someone else who has? Share your stories.
2. How does someone normally qualify to inherit something?

READ Galatians 3:29-4:7

3. What does it mean to be “Abraham’s seed” and “heirs according to the promise” (3:29)? (Look back at Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8 to refresh your memory.)
4. Who is Paul talking about in 4:1-3? Who are the under-age heirs?
5. What’s are the limitations of being in this position (4:1-2)?
6. What do you think Paul means in v3 by “the elemental spiritual forces of the world” (look for clues in the passage)? Why does he calls them this?

7. In v4-5, what has God done to change everything for those who were enslaved? Unpack the significance of each of these phrases:
 - a. “when the time set had fully come” (v4)
 - b. “God sent his Son” (v4)
 - c. “born of a woman” (v4)
 - d. “born under the law” (v4)
 - e. “to redeem those under the law” (v5)
 - f. “that we might receive adoption to sonship”

8. If Paul has all God’s children in mind here, why does he use the language of “sons”? What’s the significance of that language in this passage?

9. What else has God done for his “sons” (v6)? How does this affect our relationship with God?

10. How should the concept of adoption described in v5-7 affect how we see our identity as Christians? How does it keep us from being slaves again?

11. In what ways does the concept of adoption affect how we understand our identity as Christians?