

Galatians 3:26-4:7 Study

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ GALATIANS 3:26-4:7

NOTE: *In Roman society, when a youth came of age, the robe of childhood was laid aside and was replaced with a new robe. With this status came the full rights and responsibilities that accompanied adulthood. Paul used this cultural understanding with the Galatians that in Christ they laid aside the old clothes of the law, and put on the robe of righteousness.*

1. Paul points out to the Galatian believers that through faith they are sons of God and have “put on Christ.” What are the implications of “being clothed” with Christ?

2. From verse 28 what is the revolutionary view God holds regarding His children?

Why would this be a radical change to relationships between:

Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-22)?

Slaves and masters (Ephesians 6:5-9)?

Men and women (Ephesians 5:22-33)?

3. God views that “all are one in Christ Jesus.” Identify areas where you see this ignored in the body of believers today? How can believers promote oneness in the body? Discuss the implications this would have on society.

4. **NOTE REGARDING ADOPTION:** *Paul's adoption reference may be based on the OT concept of God calling Israel His son and combines this with the Roman notion of adopting a son (usually an adult) to designate him as the heir. "The profound truth of Roman adoption was that the adoptee was taken out of his previous state and placed in a new relationship of son to his new father...All his old debts are cancelled, and in effect the adoptee started a new life as part of his new family...[On the one hand, the new father] owned all the [new offspring's] property, controlled his personal relationships, and had the rights of discipline. On the other the hand, the father was liable for the actions of the adoptee, each owed the other reciprocal duties of support and maintenance." Francis Lyall, Slaves, Citizen, and Sons*

Explain the similarities between a Roman adoption and our adoption by God?

5. What will the sons of God, who are "of age" receive at present and what will be received in the future (according to Galatians 4:6-7 and Romans 8:14-17)? In what ways does this impact your life's perspective when you get up each day?

6. List the privileges and blessings that belong to sons of God?

7. List the responsibilities that come with being of sons of God?

8. From this passage, where do you see the Trinity at work in our adoption as God's sons?