



Sons and Heirs

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Study the Paul’s teaching about being Sons and Heirs and the contrast of flesh and Promise!

Read Galatians 4:1 - 4:7 – Growing up with Contrasting Destinies

- Paul now moves to instructing the Galatians in regard to the nature of sons and their being heirs!
- An interesting statement is that the heir as a child is no different than the slave, both need to be raised and accountable to their father.
- Paul compares this to our being children and being enslaved to the principles of the world.
- When the time came however, we were redeemed by Christ and were adopted as sons, becoming joint heirs!
- We also have the cry of Christ in our hearts – Abba! Father! No longer slaves – believers are sons!

Read Galatians 4:8 - 4:20 – Do not forsake The Promise

- During our lives it can become tempting at times to return to the comfort of the “easy way”, the way we used to do things or familial tradition.
- Paul warns the Galatians about this, that he is concerned that they are returning to the very things that had enslaved them before they knew God.
- Paul speaks to the Galatian church about his concern that the hospitality and respect that they once showed him may have waned and wonders if they’re considering him an enemy for telling the truth.
- Throughout these verses we can feel the anguish Paul does have for the believers in Galatia, from wondering if he labored in vain to feeling the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in them

Read Galatians 4:21 - 4:31 – A Tale of Two Promises!

- We now enter a profound discourse comparing those born of Hagar and those born of Sarah!
- Paul ties this discourse to those who are under and desire to be under the law and those who are in faith, calling Hagar and Sarah the women of two covenants.
- He continues to “unpack” his lesson by declaring that Hagar is the mother of those who are in bondage, bondage being slaves to the current world and the sinful nature.
- Sarah is declared to be the mother of those in faith, free from the bondage of the current world and the curse of sin by grace, through faith in Christ!
- Paul closes out this teaching by letting the believers know that like Isaac, they are children of Promise, and like Isaac the children of the Promise are persecuted by the children of the flesh.
- Eventually the children of the Promise inherit the blessing and the children of the flesh are cast out!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the difference between the son of the flesh and the son of the Promise?

- In regard to being raised, Paul points out that both the sons wait to be released to their destiny!
- However, when the fullness of time comes, the son of the slave has no inheritance – the son of Promise has the full inheritance of the Father through Christ!
- We have the Spirit of the Son in our hearts as believers and heirs of the Promise!

Question 2: Do you understand Paul’s concern with the behavior of the Galatian church?

- Paul as their spiritual father, seems to have identified a sharp departure from the foundation of faith in their lives that he knew of them!
- It seemed to Paul that they were possibly returning to “weak and worthless elementary principles of the world” (v 9), with a risk of becoming slaves to the principles again.
- His concern has him longing to present with them, so he would be able to address what is perplexing him face to face with them, an ideal we should have with those whom we disciple.

Question 3: Do you understand the difference between the children of the flesh and those of the Promise?

- We must look at Paul’s teaching here in light of the fact that the child born out of Sinai and through the Slave is the offspring of its original intent – the flesh!
- The fact that it was birthed out of the impatience and unbelief of man in regard to God’s Promise should speak powerfully to us today – we will always have struggle with that which we try to fulfill on our own. Struggles that likely will include persecution and attack against God’s Promise!
- We should be greatly encouraged as believers that as children of the Promise, we have an inheritance and are part of a lineage that is not constrained by human blood lines.
- Being born of the Spirit prevents us from being cast out with those born of the flesh!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data

Jubilee International Ministries – Connect Group Curriculum

Galatians Lesson 7