

# ❧ Walking in God's Grace—Week Five, Day One ❧

## Read Galatians 3:26-29

***<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

Today's passage of three verses is dripping with assurance—for everyone!

1. For believers, v.26 tells us *what* we are and *how* we got there:

What are we?

How did we achieve that?

*To be among the sons of God means that we have a special relationship with God as a loving, caring Father. It is a place of closeness, a place of affection, a place of special care and attention.—David Guzik*

2. Again, let's think of other man-made religions that abound in our culture. How many of them promote a special father/child type relationship with God?
3. In v. 27 Paul talks about being *baptized into Christ*. This isn't referring to water baptism, but let's use the familiar picture of water baptism to give us a mental image. In water baptism, a person is immersed into and covered with \_\_\_\_\_. When a person, by faith, believes on Jesus, they are immersed into and covered (clothed) with \_\_\_\_\_. THIS is the baptism that really saves us—our immersion into Jesus.
4. Paul lists social dividing lines that are erased once people are *sons of God*. List them:
5. Can you think of some contemporary dividing lines that are erased in the body of Christ today?
6. Since all Christians belong to Jesus the Messiah, all Christians are spiritual descendants of \_\_\_\_\_ and we have the special rights as \_\_\_\_\_ just like all other sons of Abraham.



# Walking in God's Grace—Week Five, Day Two

Read Galatians 4:1 – 7

**<sup>1</sup>What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup>He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father. <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.**

The final words of yesterday's passage told us we are "heirs according to the promise". Now we look at *heirs* and *slaves, grace* and *law*.

1. Paul draws upon Greek, Jewish and Roman culture in v.1 to explain that when a young boy, who was to someday inherit the whole estate, was still a child he would be treated similar to a \_\_\_\_\_. Don't think of our American History version of slaves. There is a further explanation in v. 2. He was subject to or under the authority of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ until his father decided he was mature.
2. **So also...** (here comes the comparison to our own spiritual condition) Let's connect the dots:

Galatians 3:26 "We are \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in \_\_\_\_\_"

Galatians 3:29 "we are \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_"

Before that time, while we were still like a child...

Galatians 3:24-25 "the \_\_\_\_\_ was put in charge of us to lead us to \_\_\_\_\_"

But now that we are sons of God,

Galatians 4:7 "you are no longer a \_\_\_\_\_"

And we no longer are under the guardianship of the law, instead

Galatians 4:6 "God sent the \_\_\_\_\_ of his son into our hearts"

And that enables a special intimate relationship

Galatians 4:6 "The Spirit calls out \_\_\_\_\_"

We have been given the *right*, through the Spirit to address our creator as Abba Father! We have also been given the *ability* by the Spirit of Jesus to have that intimate fellowship with him.

3. Jesus used this same intimate language with his father. Look up Mark 14:36 and write it out:
4. These precious verses tell us that, through our faith in Jesus, God sent us a precious living gift to live with us. What is it?
5. According to Romans 8:16 what is one thing the Spirit of God helps us know, understand, remember?



# Walking in God's Grace—Week Five, Day Three

Read Galatians 4:8-16

***<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>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 principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. <sup>12</sup>I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. <sup>13</sup>As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup>Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?***

1. Describe the condition of the Galatian believers ‘Formerly, when they did not know God’?
2. *But now* [after they have received the gospel and God’s Spirit within them] what does Paul hear they are returning to?
3. Obviously, they were not returning to the same pagan religious systems that they followed before the gospel was preached to them, but some people had come in and convinced them they should become ‘like the Jews’ and so they are turning to the law of Moses. Why is this backward based on what we learned about the law?
4. We have a fascinating insight in v.15 as to what effect their ‘law keeping’ had on the believer’s emotions. What was now missing?

Whenever we deviate from the a life of faith and replace it with life under law we are returning to the **basic principles of this world** (v.3). The basic principle of this world is a sort of ‘cause and effect’, it can be summed up as ‘you get what you deserve’. This is how we tend to see life under the sun: if I am good—I deserve good; if I am bad—I deserve bad.

- Do you see how this is opposed to the Grace of God whereby we are given what we don’t deserve?
  - Do you see how this thinking robs us of joy?
  - Can you see your natural propensity to think along these lines?
  - If you have already received God’s grace, do you ever feel the tug to return to this thinking?
  - Does it make sense now why the basic principles of this world are at the heart of all other religion?
5. Walking in God’s grace and continuing in His grace is key to an emotionally stable life. It brings us joy. What other healthy emotions does God’s grace bring into your life?



# Walking in God's Grace—Week Five, Day Four

Read Galatians 4:17-20

***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 be zealous for them. ***18*** It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and 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!

1. Who are 'those people' in v.17?
2. What are they trying to do?
3. Who are they trying to separate?
4. For what purpose?
5. Paul knew personally all about zeal. Go back to Gal. 1:14 and write out how Paul described his earlier days.

*Many cults use a technique informally known as "love bombing." They overwhelm a prospective member with attention, support, and affection. But it isn't really a sincere love for the prospect; it is really just a technique to gain another member. Christians – and legalistic groups among Christians – can use the same technique in some way or another. —David Guzik*

Have you ever met or listened to someone who was very zealous for a cause—maybe the gospel or maybe a political movement or a nutrition supplement or a weight loss plan. A zealous people can be very convincing and compelling. When I read these three verses I am reminded that there are passionate and zealous voices all around me but zeal alone is not an indicator of truth. There is a way that we can know truth and be reminded of truth.

5. Write out John 14:26
6. Write out John 16:13
7. From these two verses, sum up God's provision for us to be protected against false persuasive teaching.

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, This is the way; walk in it." Isa. 30:21. Lord, let this be our experience with you—so soft hearted that we hear your voice always!*

