

Read Gal 3:26- 5:1

The Galatians wanted to be in a family - a specific family called Gods family. They desired **identity**; a sense of **belonging**; and the **blessing** and **inheritance** that came from it. Paul was telling them God had already made them sons through Christ, but they just did not understand it. They were given sonship or became children of God when they put their faith in Christ. -

*<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.*

As Christians we are sons just as they were, we may not realise it, we may know it but not fully understand what it means, but it is true and a great aspect of grace.

**1. We are all one in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:11-22)**

Being part of one family means we have a new identity that goes beyond the distinctions between us that we may experience in everyday life.

*<sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- > **Jew or Greek** Two very different races, or cultures, but now Paul declares this distinction means nothing in the new family of God they are apart of. As **Christians we are all in the same family**, we all got here the same way - through Jesus, all here because of his grace. Part of our new community should be about **an equality and depth of relationship that does not depend on our race or nationality**.
- > **Slave or free** - about position in society our rank or class. To say there was now in God's new community no distinction would have been very challenging. It would mean someone who was the lowest rank of slaves could have a meal or talk to someone who was free.
- > **Male of female** - in their culture the woman was very much seen as second class, often exploited or ill treated (only to be seen and not heard!) This was radical stuff. With us the distinction may be changing but there are still differences in the work place.

A **health warning** though - this is not saying that these distinctions are obliterated or that they no longer exist. It is saying that they should not create any barriers in our relationships with each other.

**2. We are all heirs**

Being part of God's family means that **we share in what God has** and **inherit the promises** God has made to his people (e.g. Abraham)

*<sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

As we looked at last week this would have been key to them as they were seeking to be part of the family of Abraham and thought they needed to obey laws and mark certain days to be part of this family. We too have a desire to want to be in family or community. In Christ we have a promise that we find the real place where we **belong**.

**3. We know God and are known by him**

*<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*

**Paul contrasts what they were like before they were in Gods family to what it is like now:**

- > **Before:** they didn't know God and lived there lives **focused around false gods and idols**.
- > **Before:** we knew God we too lived our lives **focused around other things**, they may not have seemed like gods but they were - gaining material things and wealth, living to get the most pleasure we could... These things could never know us they were just bits of wood or plastic or gold etc...
- > **After:** they knew God who knew them! Part of his family! The same for us too!

But not just that he knows us, **we can know him**. We get to know him through **Him in us** - Holy Spirit shows us our relationship and position in Christ.

*<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.*

**This all happens because of his grace in our lives, we don't deserve it, we just need to receive it, and keep on receiving it every day.**

**So as Paul says:**

*Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.*

*<sup>1</sup>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.*