**Living as Heirs in Christ**

**Galatians 3:26-4:7**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
* **The Wrong Compromise (Galatians 2:11-15)**
* **Living by Faith (Galatians 2:17-21)**
* **Faith Over Flesh (Galatians 3:1-14)**
* **Why Grace Still Reigns (Galatians 3:15-25)**
  + **Unchanging Promise (vv. 15-18)**
  + **Why then the Law (vv. 19-22)**
  + **The Law as a Guardian (vv. 23-25)**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 3:46-4:7**
* **Imagine being handed the keys to a kingdom-not because you earned it, but because you were chosen and loved. That is the reality of our identity in Christ. Scripture tells us that we are not just followers or servants-we are heirs. Sons and daughters of the Highest, adopted in This family, and granted access to every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.**
* **To live as heirs in Christ means embracing a new way of thinking, a new way of living, and a new kind of confidence. It is not about striving for worthiness; it is about walking in the inheritance already secured for us through Jesus. This inheritance includes grace, peace, purpose, and eternal life-but it also calls us to responsibility, maturity, and faithfulness.**
* **In this message, we explore:**
  + **Our New Identity in Christ (3:26-29)**
  + **Our Past Condition: Slavery (4:1-3)**
  + **God’s Redemption (4:4-5)**
  + **Our Present Reality: Adoption and Intimacy (4:6-7)**
* **Let us step into the fullness of who we are-not as orphans or outsiders, but as beloved children of God, called to reflect His glory and carry His promises forward.**

1. **Our New Identity in Christ (vv. 26-29)**
   1. **Children of God by Faith (v. 26)**
      1. **Faith, not law, makes us sons and daughters.**
      2. **1 John 3:1-2: See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know Him. Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us that we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.**
      3. **Romans 9:26: And, “Then at the place they were told, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”**
      4. **John 1:12: But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**
   2. **Clothed in Christ (v. 27)**
      1. **Baptism symbolizes our union with Him.**
         1. **Identify: Believers are no longer defined by their past but are made new in Christ**
         2. **Righteousness: Through faith, believers receive Christ righteousness, enabling them to stand before God justified**
         3. **Living Out Faith: The call “put on” Christ involves actively living out the values and characteristics of Jesus in daily life.**
      2. **Colossians 2:12: For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the might power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.**
      3. **1 Peter 3:21: And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
      4. **Romans 6:4: For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.**
      5. **Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**
   3. **Unity in Christ (v. 28)**
      1. **No Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female-we are one.**
      2. **1 Corinthians 12:13: Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we share the same spirit.**
      3. **Romans 10:12-13: Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who call on the name of the LORD will be saved.”**
   4. **Heirs of the Promise (v. 29)**
      1. **As Abraham’s offspring, we inherit the covenant blessings.**
      2. **Acts 3:25: You are children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, ‘Through your decedents all families on earth will be blessed.’**
      3. **1 Peter 2:9: But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God for he called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**
2. **Our Past Condition (4:1-3)**
   1. **Like Minors Under Guardians (v. 1-2)**
      1. **Though heirs, we were under the law-immature and restricted.**
      2. **1 Corinthians 13:11: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.**
      3. **1 Corinthians 14:20: Dear brothers and sisters, don’t be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.**
      4. **Ephesians 4:14: Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.**
   2. **Slaves to the World’s Principles (v. 3)**
      1. **Bound by rituals, rules, and spiritual immaturity.**
      2. **Hebrews 5:12-14: You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.**
      3. **Romans 14:17: For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
      4. **Colossians 2:16: So don’t let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.**
3. **God’s Redemption Plan (4:4-5)**
   1. **The Fullness of Time (v. 4)**
      1. **God sent His Son-born of a woman, under the law.**
      2. **John 1:1-5; 10-14: In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God and The Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it…He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God, they are reborn-not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.**
      3. **Philippians 2:5-8: You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.**
   2. **To Redeem and Adopt (v. 5)**
      1. **Christ’s mission: to free us and make us sons and daughters.**
      2. **John 3:16-17: For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.**
      3. **Ephesians 1:5: God decided in advance to adopt us into his family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**
      4. **John 1:12: But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**
4. **Our Present Reality: Adoption and Intimacy (4:6-7)**
   1. **The Spirit of His Son (v. 6)**
      1. **We cry “Abba Father”-a term of deep affection and truth.**
      2. **Romans 8:15: So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”**
   2. **No Long Slaves but Sons (v. 7)**
      1. **And if sons, then heirs through God-fully accepted and empowered.**
      2. **Romans 8:14, 16-17: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God…For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are children of God. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.**

**Conclusion/Application:**

* **As we close today, let us remember: Christ is not merely a future promise-it is a present reality. Through faith, we are adopted into God’s family, no longer bound by the chains of sin, but liberated to walk in the Spirit. We are not just forgiven-we are family. Not just saved-we are sealed with an inheritance that cannot fade.**
* **This inheritance includes:**
  + **A New Identity: We are sons and daughters of the Most High**
  + **A New Purpose: To reflect Christ in our daily lives.**
  + **A New Hope: That even in suffering, we are being shaped for glory.**
* **Romans 8:17 reminds us that if we suffer with Christ, we will also be glorified with Him. So let us live boldly, love deeply, and serve faithfully knowing that our inheritance is secure, our future is glorious, and our father is good.**
* **Let us walk out of here not just knowing we are heirs but living like it-with confidence, humility, and joy.**