

No Longer Slaves; Galatians 4:3-7

I. Enslaved

- A. To act or conduct oneself as one in total service to another; to be owned by another
 - 1. As a point, we must understand that we are slaves
 - 2. Yes, we are free in Christ (Galatians 5:1) but that is from the yoke of the law
 - 3. We are free to act as we want, as long as it is within the will of our master
 - 4. Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV); ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
 - 5. The question has never been whether we are free or enslaved, but who do we serve?
 - 6. Romans 6:16–18 (ESV); ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
 - 7. So the idea is that we are no longer slaves to fear and death — but to life everlasting
- B. Galatians 4:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

II. What Pulls Us Away?

- A. What pulls us away from the Father back into a life of sin?
 - 1. This is what Paul is talking about, “how can you turn back again” (v. 9)
 - 2. This is definitely not an all inclusive list
- B. Immediate Gratification
 - 1. We live in a “fast food” society
 - 2. We are not willing to wait, we are not patient — Marriage and divorce
 - 3. We are no longer slaves to our passions!
- C. Greed (covetousness is idolatry — Colossians 3:5)
 - 1. We desire what other people have
 - 2. We tend to want more of what we like
 - 3. Most people work for a paycheck (to pay bills or buy toys)
 - 4. But we work so that we have something to share with others
 - 5. Ephesians 4:28 (ESV); Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
 - 6. We are no longer slaves to our desires!
- D. Power
 - 1. This was the problem with the religious leaders of Jesus’ time (and I dare say with a lot of religious leaders today as well)
 - 2. The Pharisees did not want to lose their favored status, their seats of honor, their titles of respect
 - 3. Philippians 2:3 (ESV); Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
 - 4. Romans 12:3 (ESV); For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
 - 5. Humility is the key to Christianity

- 6. We are no longer slaves to our pride!
 - E. Whatever it is that has enslaved you, put it aside — run the race with endurance; be steadfast
 - F. You are a child of God!
- III. Children of God
- A. Galatians 4:3–7 (ESV); ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
 - B. There is nothing in this world that can even come close to this statement!
 - C. God has put us equal (in importance, not reverence) to His own unique son!
 - D. Romans 8:14–17 (ESV); ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
 - E. There is nothing on this earth that can elevate you to the same plane as God
 - 1. He elevates us to Him
 - 2. He makes us citizens in His Kingdom
 - 3. He makes us heirs with His son, Jesus, the King of Kings
 - 4. God has given you value (worth) the same as His Son
 - 5. You are important!
 - 6. You are a child of God!
 - F. That is why Paul gives us this admonishment — “how can you turn back again to the WEAK and WORTHLESS elementary principles”
 - 1. “Whose slaves you want to be once more?”
 - 2. How can we let sin enslave us once again after we have been set free?
 - G. “Abba! Father!”
 - 1. “A term of endearment, later used as title and personal name; rarely used in reference to God” (BDAG)
 - 2. I find that last statement by the lexicon rather interesting
 - 3. “...one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in Christian hearts is the sense of nearness to God, indicated by the prayers addressed to God in such terms of intimacy, “Abba” being the ordinary word used by Hebrew children in addressing their father.”
Coffman
 - H. We have been given a valuable gift, adoption as children of God, heirs to the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus
- IV. No Longer Slaves
- A. To passion, desire, and greed
 - B. To weak and worthless elementary principles of this world
 - C. I am (we are) a child of God