

## **From Slavery to Sonship** **Galatians 4:1-7**

### **I. Paul's Illustration**

1. Help us grasp our position in Christ
  - Free from bondage of law
  - Free to live as adult sons
2. Illustration common in their culture
  - Boy passed into manhood in a point of time
    - For Jews it was at age twelve at a Bar Mitzvah
    - For Greeks it was at age eighteen
    - For Romans a time determined by the father
  - Roman celebration involved change of clothes
  - Meant the privileges of adulthood & heirship
  - Romans spoke of it as Adoption of sons
3. Being mature no one wants to go back

### **I. Position of a Minor Child - 4:1-3**

1. Child is heir but unable to enjoy it - 1, 2
  - Gal. 3:29 - heirs to blessings of Abraham
  - Child is not free to enjoy that inheritance
    - In our culture inheritance may be in a trust
    - In reality a minor is much like a servant
      - Not free to choose, under authority of another
      - Under tutors, governors until mature
        - Tutors are in authority for purpose of instruction
        - Governors exercise discipline, work on character
    - Father set time when minor reached sonship
    - Minor child lives under regulation set by an adult
2. One under law is much like this - 3
  - Like minor child, need set boundaries
  - Like minor child, in bondage to basics
    - "Elements of the world" refers to basic ABC's
    - Term used in v. 9, Col. 2:8, 20, Heb. 5:12
    - Word "elements" things placed in a row, ABC's
    - Refers to elementary principles taught children
    - Children taught by rote repetition & regulation
    - Little children are unable to deal with concepts
    - Can't set time priorities, schedule is regulated
    - Don't understand good nourishment, control diet
    - Don't have monetary values, limit their resources
  - This is what God did under the law
    - Set times for worship, rest, diet, tithe for giving

### **III. Privilege of a Mature Son - 4:4-7**

1. God set time for release from bondage - 4
  - Heavenly Father set the fullness of time
  - Time set in Daniel and other prophets
  - When law fulfilled its purpose, all was ready
2. Sent His Son to deliver from bondage - 4-5
  - He became a man, one with us
  - But He was perfect, absolutely sinless
  - He lived in obedience to law
  - As a man He was absolutely righteous

- He came to redeem those under the law
  - He fulfilled law's demands, setting us free
3. In Christ we enjoy adoption of sons - 5
    - Free from regulation of the law
    - We now serve God as His sons
    - Like God's Son we desire to please the Father
    - To live in harmony with His will as His sons
  4. God gave us His Spirit to empower us - 6
    - Spirit prompts us to want to please God
    - Spirit enables us to live in harmony with God
    - Spirit makes it a New Covenant - Ezek. 36:26-27
    - He regenerates us, transforms us from within
    - He empowers us to live righteously - Rom. 8:2-4
    - Spirit teaches us of this Father/son relationship
    - He prompts us to cry to a loving, caring Father
    - Love is now our motivation - 1 John 4:19
    - Love wants to please the one we love
  5. Not a servant but a son, an heir - 7
    - Ultimate result of Christ's redemptive work
    - Romans 8:17, 28-30
    - Why would you want to return under the law