**Studies in the Book of Galatians III:**

**The Blessings of a Child of God**

**(Galatians 4:1-20)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4:1-7)

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 have zeal for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! (Galatians 4:17-20)

# Introduction

The moment we accepted Jesus and Jesus comes into our lives, we become children of God. We can freely enter God’s presence. We do not need to present an animal sacrifice to approach the throne of God.

As the song goes, “I’m no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God.” – [No Longer Slaves](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k), by Jonathan David and Melissa Helser (picture on the left). As children of God, we are no longer slaves to oppression, but we are free.



**BIG IDEA**

**I am a Child of God**

# God’s Provision

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. (Galatians 4:4-5)

The ancient Greeks had two words for time, which are Chronos and Kairos. Chronos refers to chronological or sequential time, while Kairos signifies a proper or opportune time for action. Kairos is God’s perfect timing, which is always perfect and right on time, never too early or too late. God sent His son at the right time, the Kairos time, in order to bring salvation to the people.

The Jews rebelled against God time and time again. However, after the return from Babylonian exile, the Jews lost all desire for idolatry. No matter your circumstances, trust in God’s perfect timing, even when you do not understand it.

The law reminds us that we are law-breakers, and as law-breakers we all deserve hell. Some of us fall into the trap of legalism, where we try to right our wrongs by doing good. This is a bind that many find themselves in. Some of us observe traditions to appease gods for fear that calamity may befall them if they do not do so. This instills fear in them. However, the Gospel tells us that we do not have to do good to be accepted by God. We do good because we *are* accepted by God.

There are some Christians who fall into legalism as well, and attending church becomes a duty for them in order to gain acceptance with God. Some Christians come to church only on Christmas and Easter, which coins the term CEO Christians, “Christmas Easter Only” Christians. “Chreaster” is another term with the same meaning. There are also COO Christians, who “Come Only Occasionally”. Even as Christians, we can fall into the trap of doing things to please God and to be accepted by Him. Some Christians serve in ministry, perform certain acts of religious duty, in order to please God. Failing to do so makes them wonder if God is displeased with them.

Friends, God does not work that way! He loves us for who we are. It pleases His heart when we serve in ministry and do good, just as a father is pleased when his children obey him and do right. However, whether we do these things or not, does not change the fact that we are His children and that He loves us.

# Our Portion

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, *“Abba*, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4:6-7)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

When we become Christians, we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, which is a chop mark over us to indicate that we belong to God.

“Abba” is an Aramaic term which appears in transliteration in the Greek New Testament. It is immediately followed by the translation *ho pater* in Greek, which means “the father”. “Abba” is a term of endearment for fathers.



We call God “Abba”. This is a privilege only children of God have.

We are adopted as sons and daughters into God’s kingdom, and this means that we are adopted collectively into the family of God. We are chosen by God, even while we were still sinners.

There was once a girl named Sophia who was adopted into a family whose parents had three other biological children. There was a day when the three biological children were teasing Sophia about their mother and father not being Sophia’s real parents. Sophia started to cry, but then she remembered what her parents had told her. She then responded by saying, “Our parents had the three of you, and they adopted me. That means that they chose me, but with the rest of you, they had no choice.”

This story is to illustrate God’s grace over our lives when He adopted us by choosing us to be part of His family.

# Eternal Purpose

It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! (Galatians 4:18-20)

It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always. However, we do not do things to be accepted by God, because we have already been accepted by Him.

Children grow up into a resemblance of their parents. That is what children do. So what is the eternal purpose of a child of God? It is to grow to be more Christ-like, until Christ is formed in them. Our eternal purpose is not to be happy, but to be holy. God’s purpose for us is to be conformed into the image of Christ.

# Conclusion

How have you grown to be more Christ-like?

God wants us to think like His children, and that is why the Bible is not written factually, or as a book of dos and don'ts; but in stories, so that we can relate to these stories and discover who God is, and appreciate Him and His love for us.

Reflect on what it means to be a child of God, for this is a powerful truth that can change your life.



Sermon summary by Anthea