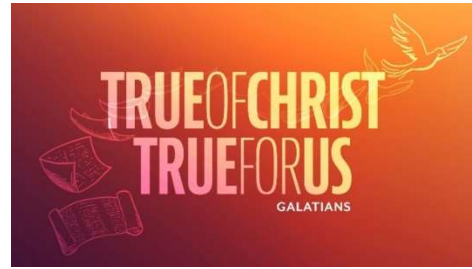


October 1, 2023
Sermon Discussion Guide
Galatians 3:28 – 4:7
Preacher: Jerrod



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Our sonship is experienced in the Spirit

The promise given to Abraham has been fulfilled in Christ, and by the Spirit and through faith, we, by the mercy and grace of God, become recipients and heirs - children of God. All the promised blessings now belong to us, as they correspond to our new identity through faith in Christ. By the grace of God, through faith and by the Spirit, God has adopted us into His eternal family bestowing upon us all of the rights and privileges that Christ himself enjoys as we are now fellow heirs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Galatians 3:28-29

1. Differences of race, ethnicity, social status and gender obviously still exist among Christians. What then is verse 28 referring to?
 - a. Why is it good news, and how should it inform our thinking that as Jerrod said in the sermon, "...only Jesus can tear down what we sinfully build up"?
 - b. In what way can this verse be wrongfully used and applied, and how would you seek to correct that error?

Read Galatians 4:1-7

2. In what way is "adoption" a key word in these verses?
 - a. Discuss the significance and nuances of how adoption beautifully captures and puts on display the effects of God's saving work.
 - b. In our culture, adoption is one of many areas of ministry that has the gospel message "built-in". What other social structures and opportunities can you think of that have the gospel message ingrained in them? (refer to James 1:27 and consider others who are in *distress/affliction*)
3. What difference does it make to see yourself as a child of God?
 - a. Discuss the difference between knowing this on paper, compared to experiencing this by the Spirit, and crying out "Abba Father."
 - b. What difference does it make to see other believers as a child of God?
4. Read through the following TRUE statements for all who are children of God:
 - a. *I am wanted*
 - b. *I am wearing Christ*
 - c. *I am an heir by the promise*
 - d. *I am no longer a slave to performance*
 - e. *I am no longer a slave to failure*
 - f. *I am part of a family*
 - g. *I am Spirit-led in my heart*
 - i. **Discuss:**
 - ii. Which statement is the most difficult for you to believe right now? Why?
 - iii. Doubts do not negate truthfulness. How might you lean into the gospel and walk in trust in this area?