

Sermon: The wonder of adoption.
Series: Galatians: Gospel Freedom.

Scripture: Galatians 3:25-4:7.
Date: October 18, 2026

OBSERVATION — As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through who, what, where, when, how, and why questions together.

INTERPRETATION — Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a. Paul talks about how we were enslaved to the “elementary principles of the world” (4:3) and living under a “guardian” (3:25). What does this life look like, this life of slavery? What has it looked like for you over the years? (Note: The elementary principles are those things that we think will make us happy or better, but they are not godly.)

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a. In this passage, Paul moves us beyond our justification to our adoption. How is our adoption by God different from our justification by God? Do you struggle to see God as your Father who has adopted you?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace and salvation? How does it point us to Christ?

a. **Read 4:4–5 again. What stands out to you in this summary of the gospel? Consider ideas like** fullness of time, born under the law, redeemed, and adopted.

b. Paul says that if we have been baptized into Christ, we have put on Christ. Why is it important that our identity in Christ is a gift to receive and not just a pattern to follow? What does it look like in your practical, daily life to “put on Christ” and live from His identity rather than your own? Consider anxieties, how you receive criticism, relationships, sources of identity, etc.

APPLICATION

a. Read 4:6–7 again. The role of the Spirit in our hearts is to cause us to experience our sonship in Christ. In what ways do you struggle to both believe and experience the privilege of sonship? How does the Spirit help us in this way? How has He personally helped you to experience your sonship in Christ?

b. How should the reality that “you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28) dismantle the social, cultural, or personal divisions that typically separate people in the church? Consider whether there is a specific person or group from whom you tend to distance yourself, and how your shared identity in Christ calls you to pursue true unity and love toward them.

PRAYER

- Thank God for adopting you into His family.
- Confess ways you have found your identity in things other than Christ.
- Thank Jesus for giving us His life as a gift to receive and not just a pattern to follow.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to experience your sonship in Christ.