

# Galatians

## Chapter 4

### Verse 5

1. Christ was made under the law that He might redeem us from the bondage and condemnation of the law.
2. He was placed under the tutelage of the law, but unlike us, He was obedient in all things (**Romans 5:19**). He fulfilled the righteousness of the law, keeping it in all points (**Hebrews 4:15**).
3. When Christ died on the cross, He bore the curse of the law that you and I deserve. As the Bible says, He died for us. **Romans 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:10; Galatians 1:4**
  - All who place their faith in Christ are set free (redeemed) from the curse, bondage, slavery, and death sentence of the law. **Romans 7:6**
  - Through faith in His atoning blood, we are forgiven of all of our sins and we are justified in the sight of God. **Romans 3:24-25**
  - The law was lording over us, but Christ came and redeemed us from its slavery.
  - The word "redeemed" means "to buy up, ransom."
4. But the good news doesn't end there. Christ's redemption from the slavery of the law clears the way for us to receive **the adoption of sons**.
5. We think of adoption as assuming the role of a parent for someone else's child. You take by choice that child into a relationship and become his/her parent. It is a transfer of parental rights from one person to another.
6. The Biblical and historical meaning of adoption goes much deeper.
  - In Roman, Greek, and Jewish culture a child would be under tutors until he was "adopted."
  - At a certain age, there would be a ceremony which would mean that the child had passed from childhood to adulthood. This was "*the time appointed of the father*" (verse 2).
  - After the adoption proceedings, he would no longer be dependent on tutors and governors, but would be viewed as a full grown son within that family. He would deal directly with the father and become a partner in the business affairs of the family.
  - He would no longer be treated as a child, but as a contributor to the family unit, enjoying all the rights and privileges of full sonship.
  - This "adoption" did not speak of **entrance** into the family (that happened at birth), but rather a **position** within the family (verse 1).
7. What does the Christian's adoption into the family of God mean?
  - We gain **entrance** into the family by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:26**
  - But the Christian is given the **position** of a full grown, adult son in the family of God. We are not under the tutelage of the law, but we are viewed as adult sons within the family.

## Verse 6

1. As adult sons, we deal directly with the Father. We have complete access to Him by virtue of the fact that He has placed the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.

### **Ephesians 2:18**

- The presence or absence of the Spirit is what determines whether or not a person is in the family of God. **Romans 8:9-10**
2. Abba is a title of affection, intimacy, and tenderness. Jesus is the only one who used this title. **Mark 14:36**
  3. The same level of intimacy that Christ has with the Father, you and I now have by virtue of Christ's Spirit that lives within us. No servant could call his master "father", but because of our standing as sons, we can call God "Abba, Father."
  4. We do not have to go through another person to fellowship with God. We do not have to keep a list of rules in order to fellowship with God.
  5. We have been made full grown adult sons in the family of God.

## Verse 7

1. We no longer take orders and serve under the slavery of the law. We are no longer under the tutelage and governorship of the law (remember verses 1 & 2).
  - This is why Paul says, "*Wherefore thou art no more a servant...*"
2. By virtue of our adoption, we are now full grown sons in God's family. This is what God's Word proclaims.
3. You may be asking, "But I thought a new Christian was a babe in Christ. Don't you have to keep growing until one day God considers you a full grown son?"
  - No - when you are saved, the Spirit of Christ enters into you and you are placed into the family of God as an adult son, therefore you have the **privileges** and **blessings** of a son. You don't attain this position; it is where you start!
  - Ephesians 1:3 makes it clear that you have **already** been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. You don't grow into these blessings; they are given to you freely when God's Spirit enters your heart and you are adopted.
  - Galatians 4:7 declares that if you are a son, then you are an heir of God **through Christ**. Your position in the family is given to you **through Christ**, not any works or deeds that you can accomplish.
4. As Warren Weirsbe aptly points out, here is where we must distinguish between condition and position.
  - When we are saved, our **condition** is one of a babe in Christ. Spiritual growth is very much needed. **Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18**
  - But our **position** in the family is one of an adult son who has complete access to the Father and can exercise all the wonderful privileges of sonship.
  - **Illustration:** when we gain adult status in our physical family (18 years old), this doesn't eliminate the need for continued growth (academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally). Our adult status has to do with how we are viewed and our position. Your **position** may be as an adult, but your **condition** may be that you still act like an over-grown baby.

5. Praise the Lord, there is no waiting period to begin enjoying the riches of His grace and enjoying unhindered fellowship with the Father.
6. I am (present tense) an heir of God through Christ!
7. Let's consider some dispensational aspects of this text concerning adoption:
  - Israel is declared to be God's firstborn son. **Exodus 4:22**
  - As a **child**, God called Israel out of Egypt. **Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:32**
  - Before the adoption proceedings could take place between God and Israel, Israel was placed under the schoolmaster of the law.
  - As a child Israel was told specifically in the law what to do and when and where to do it.
  - They were placed under the governorship of the law until the time appointed of the Father.
  - As God's child, Israel rebelled against God in every way. It was clear, they would never reach the place of adoption on their own merits or goodness.
  - But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son. He came to redeem them that were under the law. This is specifically referring to Israel, although application can be made to Gentiles.
  - After the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ, how did Israel respond? When we read **Acts 2-7**, we see that they responded with hatred and persecution against the Spirit-filled apostles and believers.
  - God raised up the apostle Paul and sent the gospel of Christ and the offer of adoption to the Gentiles. This is what is happening today and has been for the past 2000 years. God's plans for Israel have been temporarily postponed and God is offering adoption into His family to every person in every nation.
  - Is God through with Israel? Has God cast them away permanently?
  - Absolutely not - **Romans 9:4** says that the adoption **does** pertain to Israel. In **Romans 11:25-26** we read that Christ will return to this earth and deliver Israel.
  - When Christ returns, Israel will become the full grown adopted sons of God that He always intended for them to be. **Hosea 1:10**