

Galatians Chapter 3

Verses 25-26

1. The law can no longer make any demands of us or condemn us - we are no longer under the schoolmaster. **vs. 25; Romans 6:14, 7:4, 6**
 - Once the child (a minor) became an adult (cultures differed on the age, anywhere from 12-21), the schoolmaster no longer had any authority over him.
 - The adult son now dealt directly with the father.
 - We, as Christians, no longer need the schoolmaster of the law. We now deal directly with the Father. **Ephesians 2:18**
2. We are now the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. **vs. 26**
 - The simplicity of this verse is absolutely beautiful.
 - This is the gospel in a nutshell.
 - It did not say that we are **all** the children of God, period. - This is a false doctrine that many churches teach. It said that we are all the children of God **by faith in Christ Jesus**. Faith in Christ is the difference between a child of God and a child of the devil.
 - Satan tries to confuse people and get them entangled in religious activities, thinking that this will gain them life and righteousness.
 - We become members of the family of God by **faith alone** in Jesus Christ.
 - Here are some good cross-references with this verse - **Romans 3:25-28, 4:5, 5:1-2, 9:30; Ephesians 2:8-9.**

Verse 27

1. This verse is not speaking of water baptism. A person is not placed in Christ when he/she is baptized in water. This would make water baptism an essential ingredient in salvation.
2. The entire theme of this book has been justification through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Paul just taught us in verse 26 that we are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.
 - According to Paul, there is only **one** baptism whereby God comes to dwell in the believer and the believer is placed in Christ. **Ephesians 4:4-6**
3. So, what does it mean to be baptized into Christ? **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** makes it clear.
 - The Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into Christ's body.
 - In **1 Corinthians 12:27**, Paul tells the church, "*Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*"
 - When does the Holy Spirit enter our bodies and baptize us into Christ's body? **Ephesians 1:13-14** teaches that it happens the moment we believe on Christ.
 - The Holy Spirit baptizes into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:1-5**). His experience becomes ours.

- Water baptism only serves as an outward, visible **picture** of that one, true baptism that occurs at salvation.
4. If we have been baptized into Christ, we have "put on Christ."
 - This means, "To sink into a garment, to invest with clothing."
 5. We now have such a oneness with Christ that **Ephesians 5:30** declares that "we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." We have sunk into the garment of Christ; we have been clothed with His righteousness. We have "*put on Christ.*"
 - The new righteous nature that we have received in Christ is referred to as "*the new man.*"
 6. Paul admonishes believers to "put on" this new man in their daily life. In other words, allow Christ in you to be lived out in your attitudes and actions. **Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10-15**

Verse 28

1. This verse must have shocked a lot of people. It is teaching that we all stand equal before God **in Christ**. God sees us all "in Christ." Think about the ramifications of this teaching in Paul's day.
 - People owned slaves and considered them a possession, such as a house or business.
 - Women were demeaned and treated as inferior.
 - The Jews snubbed their noses at the Gentiles and treated them as heathen.
2. Now Paul says, "*...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*" **cf. Colossians 3:11; Romans 10:12**
3. This does not mean that we lose our identity as a man or a woman or we forfeit our national identity when we get saved. Paul clearly addressed these issues in other places and made these physical distinctions.
4. It simply means that no believers are hindered in their spiritual relationship with God because they are a Gentile, or a slave, or a woman, etc.
5. God loves all of us equally in Christ. God's purposes for all of us are varied and different, but nobody in the body of Christ enjoys a privileged status before God over other believers. We all have equal access to the Father through Christ. **Ephesians 2:16-18**
 - **Illustration:** It doesn't matter if you have 5 million dollars in your account or you're \$5 overdrawn, God loves both persons the same. You could be mayor of Daytona or a fry cook at a greasy spoon restaurant - you both stand equal before God in Christ.

Verse 29

1. The teaching of this verse was explained when we covered verse 16.
2. Here is a quick review:
 - Christ was Abraham's seed.
 - God has baptized us (Gentiles) into Christ; therefore we are the spiritual seed of Abraham.

- We have become heirs of the promise that Abraham received. In the context of this chapter, that promise deals with imputed righteousness before God.
 - The spiritual blessings of life and righteousness now belong to us because we are in Christ.
3. This in no way changes the promises that God made to the **physical** seed of Abraham (the nation of Israel). All of those earthly promises will be fulfilled literally.
Psalm 89:28-37; cf. Romans 11:25-28