

Our Father Really Loves Us Galatians 4:1-7

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Galatians 3:26-27

As we “clothe” ourselves in the fullness of Christ, we can experience the following relationship with God as our Father:

Our Father removes overbearing expectations so we can grow into maturity.

Galatians 4:1-3

“Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.”

- A mature relationship is free from a slave-like control over us.
- A mature relationship is free from earning approval by keeping the law.
“guardians” “managers”

Our Father sovereignly works to bring us into a new relationship so we can trust Him.

Galatians 4:4-6

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”

- **Our Father controlled the time when Jesus could redeem us from the bondage of the law.**
Romans 8:2-4 · Ephesians 1:3-8
 - Jesus: Fully God **“God sent forth His Son”** Hebrews 1:3
 - Jesus: Fully man **“born of a woman”** Philippians 2:7
 - Jesus: Qualified **“born under the Law”** Matthew 5:17
- **Our Father adopts us and gives us His Spirit so we can call God “daddy.”**
Romans 8:14-17 · Ephesians 1:13-14

Our Father gives us hope by pointing to our inheritance as His child.

Galatians 4:7

- We gain His inheritance now and in the future.
- Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.
Colossians 1:9-12

Digging Deeper:

Today's passage really began in Galatians 3. As we become "sons" of God, we enter into a new relationship with God. He unites us with each other in Christ. And, He seeks to "clothe" us in Christ so our lives are filled with His presence and power. All we do should reflect the nature and character of Christ. As we join this new spiritual family, our identity is found in Christ who "redeemed" us from the bondage of the law and adopted us as His child. He is like a loving "daddy" that will care for us in this life and give us a heavenly inheritance in heaven.

LifeGroup Discussion

In today's passage, we see the trinity at work: God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- What is your image of God as your Father? What experiences or events shape that view of Him?
- As you read Galatians 4:3-7, how does your view of God as your Father change or become affirmed?
- Read Romans 8:14-17. What do you learn about God as your Father from this passage? How does that help you trust Him and pray to Him?
- Regarding Jesus the Son, what promises and blessings do you find about Jesus Christ from Ephesians 1:3-8? How does that impact your view and appreciation of Jesus Christ?
- Regarding the Holy Spirit, how does He encourage your heart from Galatians 4:6?
- What kind of relationship do you no longer have with God in Galatians 4:7?
- What new relationship do you enjoy?
- How does that shape your view of your Father and the Spirit?
- What promises can you claim about the Spirit from Ephesians 1:13-14?
- Sum up how this passage helps you trust in and love God as your Father.

Next Steps

1. **Respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.** Come to the Prayer Points or find any leader at Calvary Church to pray with you about taking a next step toward surrendering to Jesus and living for His Kingdom. Learn more in the booklet "The Way" in the seat racks or visit our website at calvarylife.org/Jesus
2. **Connect with others to grow in your faith:** Calvary offers many ways for you to grow as a follower of Jesus. Learn about **Mentoring, LifeGroups, Equipping Classes, Care Ministries** and more by filling out **The Card** and dropping it in the offering or by visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today. calvarylife.org/grow
3. **Share the good news of Jesus with a friend.** Start praying that God will give you love, courage, opportunity and the words to say. Invest and invite your friends and family into a relationship with Jesus.

