

Baptized into a New Family

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Gal 3:23-4:7

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Synopsis:

The past few weeks we have talked about justification, getting our life right, and how all humans try to do this but fail. Last week we spoke about an even deeper longing, the need to belong, to find our place in a loving family. The Bible teaches that we long to belong because we are in fact orphans. If we're orphans, how do we find our true family? We gain access to the family of God through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

I.

Search for a Family

Gal 4:7 "So you are no longer a slave but a child"

Dale House: Past few months

-Stories:

Rick Botone- go home, beaten, return

Charles- Christmas, drunk, furniture, didn't belong

Gaylan-

It seems I just keep growing older and keep remaining alone in this world. I do hope that I am fortunate enough to marry someday. But like my uncle Lyle says, "If it happens it happens, and everything about getting married will work itself out." But he said don't worry about getting married, because if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. Sometimes I get so lonely I can't bear the thought of it.

*Greatest need is to belong

Thomas Wolfe *You Can't Go Home Again*

"Life is the search for the Father"

We're all orphans in truth

If everyone wants to belong, how do we find a family?

II

How to Find a Family

Gal 3:26 “For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith”

Galatians and Paul:

- North Asia
- Preached freedom from law in Jesus Christ
- Judaizers came back
- Writes in 48-49 AD from Antioch
- Most blunt letter
- Great *Magna Charta* of freedom (Luther)

Great question of Jews was,

“Who belongs to the Abraham family?”

Same question as ours “How do we belong?”

Uses Abraham as example of how we get into the God family

III.

How the Jew Finds a Family

Gal 3:24 “Therefore the law was our disciplinarian”

Jews and Law:

- By birth and keeping law, or by keeping law

Paul argues:

- Trusts God and becomes right (Gen 17)
- Torah comes 400 years later, acts as disciplinarian
- The one offspring (sing) of Abraham, Jesus, the true son

*Can't belong by being born or doing the right thing

e.g. People from good homes still need to belong

IV.

How the Gentile Finds a Family

Gal 4:3 “We were enslaved to the elemental spirits”

Gentiles and Elements:

- Gentiles didn't have Torah

- They followed the newest thing (elements)
- Inner Torah
- gods versus God

*Can't belong by doing your own thing (lost children)
e.g. Dale House kids

V.

How All People Find a Family

Gal 3:28 "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus"

Bible's answers to search:

- Get a family by being adopted into Jesus' family
- Entrance is through trust in trustworthy Jesus
- Ceremony is Baptism
- Trinity family table
- All invited (3:28)

*My family jolted me, which left me orphaned
Others need jolting to realize they need Jesus