

LEARN

Read Galatians 3:25 – 4:7 together. What stands out to you in the text and from Sunday’s sermon?

What is the importance of Paul saying Christians have “put on Christ” in 3:27?

(We have a new classification/identity, a new closeness to Christ, a growing character to be like Christ, and a covering by Christ such that God sees his perfection and honor in us.)

How should we understand the term “When the fullness of time had come” in 4:4?

(One important aspect is that God has always been, and still is, in perfect control of all things. His timing is perfect. Politically Rome ran the world and travel was accessible, culturally Greek language was widespread, and theologically the Law of Moses fulfilled its work. Ultimately, it was the right time because God determined it so.)

PRACTICE

What impact does being “a son of God through faith” have on your life? Or, what impact should it have on a daily basis when you consider it as your deepest, truest identity?

(When this truth gets to our deepest parts, it changes how we see ourselves, how God redeems our hurts and regrets, how we respond to suffering as his children, the humble confidence we can live from daily.)

Galatians 3:28 would have been a game changer for those who first heard it. How should it shape the way we think of, behave toward, and love one another in the church?

(All cultural, class, and gender barriers that often lead to division need to be used for unity in the church, because before God we are one in Christ. While cultures and genders exist, they need to be redeemed and honored in a church rather than used as weapons against one another or as means of judging/belittling others.)

Read Galatians 4:6-7 again. Notice the absolute, no-doubt-about-it, truths of “you are” and “has sent” and “if a son, then an heir”. How do you respond at the heart level to these truths? In what ways do you struggle to believe this about yourself?

(Leaders, press on the fact that so much of our identity crises, our self-hatred, our pride as well as despair can legitimately be remedied when we receive God’s Word at the deepest levels of our hearts.)

CHANGE

“Abba Father” is an incredibly intimate expression. It is our right as sons to approach the holy God of the universe in this way. Do you approach God in prayer with this kind of intimacy? How can you develop that?

(Leaders: Consider taking time as men/women to slow down and call out to God as Father for help in believing you can pray like this and for the Spirit to develop this intimacy in prayer.)