

Living with Joy as an Adopted Son

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Galatians 4:1-11

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

- Adoption - "a key doctrine for believers!"
- Paul shows us that believers are adopted:
 - By Christ's work we are redeemed and adopted as sons Gal 4:4-5
 - By the Spirit we experience what it means to be a son Gal 4:6-7

Coming of Age - what Christ did for us! V4-5

- slavery is our natural state 4:3; Psa 51:5, we are born in bondage to sin
- we "come of age" by Christ's work 4:4-5
 - we are redeemed from under the law - 4
 - redeem - same word as 3:13 - to pay slave's price of redemption
 - we are adopted as sons - 5
- Grasp the FULL power & grace of the Gospel: be of sin the double cure
 - not only did Christ remove the curse we deserve 5a
 - He gives us the blessings He deserved 5b
 - Never forget the GREAT EXCHANGE! You are God's son by faith!

The Work of the Spirit v6

- the work of the Son is objective - true regardless of feeling
- the work of the Spirit is subjective - given so we can know the privileges of sonship
 - we are an heir v7 we have confidence & boldness as an heir
- we grow in our sonship
 - NOT by working harder
 - by learning of your Heavenly Father & work of the Son to redeem you and make you His own Gal 5:22-23, 25

How we mess up our sonship by religion

- Paul warns of danger of returning to religious idolatry/legalism
- both idolatry & religion seek to satisfy God by works! Both enslave!
- Don't return to basic principle of the world - saving yourself
- Remember God is Gracious and Merciful Psa 145:5

Luke 15 - Jesus taught picture of Father & two brothers

- one very immoral younger son - disowned daddy's rules
- one moral son - kept daddy's rules outwardly to get blessing
- BOTH wanted control of father's wealth BUT did NOT want close relationship with the Father
 - BOTH alienated from the father's heart
 - immoral son REPENTS and enjoys the father!
 - moral son stays away in anger - mad that his works were not good enough - wallowed in his hard religion.
 - Which was worse? Probably moral way - because it seems better - but it ended up in separation from the father
- Joyless Duty v29: "I have slaved" moral brother treated relationship as that of a slave, drudgery or duty. Saw father as uncaring boss. Didn't see gracious father...
- Anxious Performance v29: "I never disobeyed". Moral brother was quick to make sure others know of his good works - trying to prove himself. Forgot the character of his father: Psa 145:8
- Restless Anger v28: "was angry and refused to go in". Was angry his brother was honored... he didn't deserve it.
 - Scandal of God's grace: If we forget God's grace we view life as a contract between us and God: we do good works (or try) and in return He bless us. When things go well - filled with pride. When things go badly - blame ourselves (guilt) or blame God (bitter).
 - BUT Covenant of Grace between us and God reads:
"Paid in full by the blood of Jesus!"

Remember God's Grace and Mercy in the Gospel as an Adopted Son!

God is Great... so I don't have to be in control... God is!

God is Glorious... so I don't have to fear others... reverence God!

God is Good... so I don't have to look elsewhere... God is all I need!

God is Gracious... so I don't have to prove myself... Jesus did that for me!