

## Galatians 4:1-5

**1-3.** Now I say that **the HEIR, as long as he is a CHILD, does not differ at all from a SLAVE**, though he is MASTER of all, but is **UNDER GUARDIANS and STEWARDS until the time APPOINTED by the FATHER**. Even so **we, when WE WERE CHILDREN, were in BONDAGE** under the elements of the world.

- **Romans 8:17** "And if \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_ - heirs of God and joint \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be \_\_\_\_\_ together."
- **Titus 3:7** "That having been justified by His \_\_\_\_\_ we should become \_\_\_\_\_ according to the hope of \_\_\_\_\_ life."
- **Galatians 3:29** "And if you are \_\_\_\_\_, then you are Abraham's seed (descendent), and \_\_\_\_\_ according to the promise."
- **I Peter 3:7** "Likewise you \_\_\_\_\_, dwell with them [your wives] with \_\_\_\_\_, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being \_\_\_\_\_ together of the \_\_\_\_\_ of life, that your \_\_\_\_\_ may not be hindered."
- **Acts 26:18** "To open their eyes, and to turn them from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, and from the power of \_\_\_\_\_ to God, that they may receive \_\_\_\_\_ of sins, and an \_\_\_\_\_ among those who are sanctified by \_\_\_\_\_ in Me (Jesus)."
- **Ephesians 1:14** "Which is the guarantee of our \_\_\_\_\_ until the \_\_\_\_\_ of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."
- **Ephesians 1:11** "In whom (Christ) also we have \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_, being predestined according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who works all things according to the counsel of \_\_\_\_\_ own \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "JOINT HEIRS with Christ" - An HEIR is one who has an INHERITANCE** and will inherit or receive some endowment, property or quality from a PARENT. As Believers in Christ, we are God's children, so we are also His HEIRS. **"JOINT HEIRS with Christ" means we will INHERIT EQUALLY with Jesus.**

- **John 17:20-23** "I do not pray for these (the original disciples) alone, but also for those (US) who will \_\_\_\_\_ in Me through their \_\_\_\_\_; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in \_\_\_\_\_, and I in \_\_\_\_\_; that \_\_\_\_\_ also may be one in \_\_\_\_\_, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which you \_\_\_\_\_ Me I have \_\_\_\_\_ them, that they may be one just as We are one: I (Jesus) in \_\_\_\_\_ and You in Me; that they may be made \_\_\_\_\_ in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ You have \_\_\_\_\_ Me."
- **Matthew 25:34** "Then the \_\_\_\_\_ will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.'"
- **Psalms 16:5-6 & 11** "\_\_\_\_\_, Lord, are the portion of my \_\_\_\_\_ and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 11) "You will \_\_\_\_\_ me the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; in Your \_\_\_\_\_ is fullness of \_\_\_\_\_; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
- **I Peter 1:3-4** "Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant \_\_\_\_\_ has begotten us again to a living

hope through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Christ from the \_\_\_\_\_, to an \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible and undefiled, and that does not fade away, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ for you."

**Definition: "The HEIR, as long as he is a CHILD, does not differ at all from a SLAVE"** - When the heir to a fortune is a minor (under age) he is not in possession of his inheritance, and in reality, has no more authority than one of his father's servants or slaves. He will not come into his full authority until he reaches adulthood.

- **Galatians 4:7** "Therefore you are no longer a \_\_\_\_\_ but a \_\_\_\_\_, and if a \_\_\_\_\_, then an \_\_\_\_\_ of God through \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Under GUARDIANS and STEWARDS until the time APPOINTED by the FATHER"** - "Guardians and stewards" means administrators, trustees, and managers to handle the estate until the child comes of age, and reaches adulthood. Young children of wealthy families needed personal caretakers, tutors (even "nannies") and also someone to handle their legal and financial affairs until they came of age. Paul's illustration here would be familiar to his readers, because Jews, Greeks and Romans all had **a ceremony to celebrate when a child came of age and reached adulthood**. Paul uses this illustration **to show how we were when we were UNSAVED**, before coming to faith in Christ, and **how we are NOW that we have become ADULT CHILDREN of GOD through our faith in Jesus Christ**.

- **Galatians 3:24-26** "Therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ was our \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ us to \_\_\_\_\_, that we might be justified by \_\_\_\_\_. But \_\_\_\_\_ faith has come, we are no longer under a \_\_\_\_\_. For you are all \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."
- **II Corinthians 6:18** "I will be a \_\_\_\_\_ to you, and \_\_\_\_\_ shall be My \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_", says the Lord Almighty."

**Definition: "WE WERE CHILDREN..... in BONDAGE under the ELEMENTS of the WORLD"** - "Elements of the world" is the same as "**basic principles of the world**" in Colossians 2:8 & 20, and it means the basic, worldly rituals of man-made religion - people trying to reach God through a human system of works. Jewish believers, **BEFORE they were SAVED, were like SLAVES** under the Hebrew rituals. Gentile believers were "**slaves**" to their **HEATHEN GODS and goddesses**, and every false religious system out there in the world. **Paul WARNS Christian Believers NOT to put themselves back under that kind of BONDAGE of RELIGIOUS RITUALS** and regulations (commandments), whether Jewish or Gentile religion.

- **Colossians 2:8** "Beware lest anyone \_\_\_\_\_ you through philosophy and \_\_\_\_\_ deceit, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, according to the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and not according to Christ."
- **Colossians 2:20-23** "Therefore if you \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ principles of the \_\_\_\_\_, why, as though living in the world, do you \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves to \_\_\_\_\_ - 'Do not \_\_\_\_\_, do not \_\_\_\_\_, do not handle,' which all concern things which perish with the using - according to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of men? These things indeed have an \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom in self-imposed \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ humility, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, but are of \_\_\_\_\_ value against the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "These things indeed have an APPEARANCE of WISDOM in SELF-IMPOSED RELIGION" -** People who are involved in religious activities and **rituals that "seem to be so holy"** (that's what it means by "have an appearance of wisdom"), especially if they are "neglecting their body" by fasting, living in poverty, or not being allowed to legitimately get married (teaching that celibacy is somehow "more holy"), are in fact only following the "traditions and commandments of men" rather than living for God. **The Bible calls this "SELF-IMPOSED RELIGION" - it is man-made.** Colossians 2:20-23 tells us that this "false humility, and neglect of the body" has **"NO VALUE against the indulgence of the flesh."** In the case of the false teaching of celibacy supposedly being "more holy" for priests, we see in the news (and from history) that **it does NOT work.** More and more scandals of Roman Catholic priests sexually molesting children, or having sex with women parishioners, or nuns getting pregnant, only prove that these **man-made, self-imposed religious rules and regulations** DO NOT keep people from indulging their fleshly desires and lusts. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the power to keep from indulging our fleshly lusts. Another form of self-made religion is to have people keep certain dietary commandments and only eat certain foods. God's word tells us that **God is interested in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives**(Galatians 5:22-23), not a list of foods that we eat or don't eat.

- **Romans 14:17-18** "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. For he who \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in these things is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and approved by men."
- **Romans 8:4** "That the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ might be \_\_\_\_\_ in us who do not walk (live our lives) according to the \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Galatians 5:16-17** "I say then: 'Walk in the \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall \_\_\_\_\_ the lust (desires) of the \_\_\_\_\_. For the flesh \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_; and these are contrary (OPPOSITE) to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

**Definition: "The righteous REQUIREMENT of the LAW" -** The law can't make a person holy, it can only DEMAND that he BE HOLY. Since our flesh (human nature) is so weak, and we cannot do the good we would like to do, we could never keep God's laws ourselves. However, God **IMPUTES to us** (applies to our account) the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and since He kept the law perfectly, the REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN FULFILLED through Jesus.

**4-5. But when the FULNESS of the TIME had come,** God sent forth **His Son, BORN of a woman, BORN under the LAW,** to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

- **Ephesians 1:10** "That in the dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ He might gather together in one all things in \_\_\_\_\_, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him:"
- **Mark 1:15** "And saying, 'The time is \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand (close by). Repent, and believe in the gospel."

**Definition: "The FULNESS of the TIME" -** This means when everything was just right, at God's perfect timing, God caused it to happen. God is never too late or too early, He is right on time.

**Definition: "To REDEEM those who were UNDER the LAW" -** Redeem means to BUY BACK or purchase the freedom of someone in slavery. Redemption is the act of

redeeming, **buying back, freeing from captivity** by paying of a RANSOM. **Jesus PAID, with His blood**, for us to be FREED from the CAPTIVITY of SIN, but He also paid for us to be SET FREE from the bondage of the law.

- **Ephesians 1:7** "In Him we have \_\_\_\_\_ through His \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, according to the riches of His grace."
- **Colossians 1:14** "In whom we have \_\_\_\_\_ through His \_\_\_\_\_, even the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins."

**Definition: "BORN of a woman, BORN UNDER THE LAW"** - In His humanity, **Jesus was born as a Jewish male, so He was subject to all the laws and regulations that the Jewish people had to live under.** Jesus kept ALL of the Old Covenant commandments, because He was the Jewish Messiah under the Old Covenant. **But AFTER His crucifixion and resurrection,** He became Savior of ANYONE who would believe in Him, because **He died for the sins of the whole world.** In His earthly ministry, He went into the synagogues and into the temple in Jerusalem to read from the scrolls of the Scriptures, and **to preach, but He preached that the kingdom of God was near, that it was coming soon.** He preached that the very Scriptures He was reading were being fulfilled right then, but **He preached that something new was on its way - that is the New Testament or New Covenant, and we are under that New Covenant of grace, not of law.** Jesus still operated under the Old Mosaic Law as a Jew, because He came to fulfill the law for us! God's word says that Jesus took upon Himself on the cross ALL of our sins and iniquities (Colossians 2:14), which means our inability to keep God's law, and then it says He rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25). When Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins (all the times we could NOT keep God's commandments), **His righteousness (His ability to keep the commandments perfectly)** is now applied to our account. We have died to the old Jewish laws and commandments, and have been **raised to new life in Christ Jesus.**

- **Luke 2:21** "And when eight days were completed for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, His name was called \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ given by the \_\_\_\_\_ before He was \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 1:3** "Concerning His Son \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord, who was \_\_\_\_\_ of the seed of \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 8:3** ""For what the law could not do, in that it was \_\_\_\_\_ through the flesh, \_\_\_\_\_ did by \_\_\_\_\_ His own \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinful \_\_\_\_\_, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh."
- **Romans 6:3-4** "Or do you not know that as many of \_\_\_\_\_ as were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ by the glory of the Father, even so \_\_\_\_\_ also should \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "That we might RECEIVE the ADOPTION as SONS"** - Adoption is the act of bringing the child of another into your family. Because we were children of the devil before we were saved, God brings us into His family by the process of adoption. **This is a LEGAL process of declaring us His ADULT CHILDREN,** although we are **already BORN into God's family** by the new birth.

- **Ephesians 1:5** "Having predestined us to \_\_\_\_\_ as sons (children) by Jesus Christ to \_\_\_\_\_, according to the good pleasure of His will."