

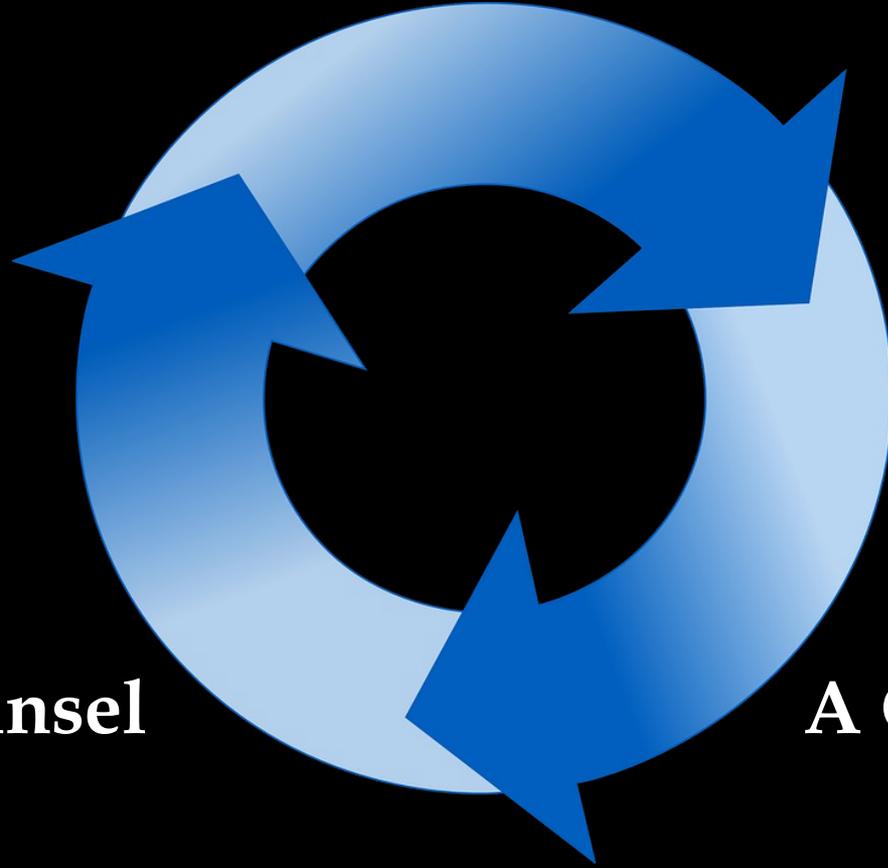


The Gospel in Galatians

7 Gospel Realities:

- Delivered by Christ (1:3–5)**
- Justified in Christ (2:15–16)**
- Crucified with Christ (2:19–20)**
- Baptized into Christ (3:27–29)**
- Adopted in Christ (4:4–7)**
- Conformed to Christ (4:19)**
- Indebted to Christ (5:24)**

The Text



Pastoral Counsel

A Gospel Reality

The Text



The Gospel “Defended” (3:1–5:12)

- 1. Argument from Experience (3:1–5).** *“Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?” (v. 3)*
- 2. Argument from Scripture (3:6–4:7).** *“Is the law then contrary to the promise of God?” (v. 21)*
- 3. Argument from Experience (4:8–20).** *“What then has become of the blessing you felt?” (v. 15)*
- 4. Argument from Scripture (4:21–31).** *“Do you not listen to the law?” (v. 21)*
- 5. Appeal (5:1–12).**

-1-

Illustration (4:1-2)

The son is the heir of everything that belongs to his father; he owns it by right.

**The father appoints a date when his son
will be permitted to make his own
decisions.**

The father appoints a guardian to manage his son until the appointed date.

**Until then, the son is like a slave; he isn't
free to do what he wants.**

-2-

Application (4:3-5)

**There was a time when we
were children.**

**We were under a guardianship – the law.
In that sense, we were slaves.**

The appointed time of guardianship has ended. We're no longer under the law.

-3-

Implication (4:6-7)

**A Gospel Reality:
“Adopted in Christ”
(4:4-7)**



**“The doctrine of adoption is the climax
of the Bible” (J. I. Packer)**

**God takes radically depraved sinners
into His family and claims them as
His sons (children).**

-1-

**Adoption is purchased by
the sending of the Son
(4:4-5)**

**When Christ died on the cross as our
substitute, He accomplished two
things for us.**

First, He paid our debt.

We're guilty of disobeying God and of breaking His covenant. As a result, we're debtors to Him - under the curse. But Christ paid our debt upon the cross.

Redemption

Second, He purchased our inheritance.

At the time of Adam's fall, we lost everything. We fell into a state of alienation from God. But Christ purchased our inheritance (membership in God's family) upon the cross.

Adoption

In Christ, we possess a new name, new position, and new identity.

Christ passes on this inheritance in perpetuity to all His people.

-2-

**Adoption is applied by
the sending of the Spirit
(4:6-7)**

Terrifying God *vs.* Loving God

Condemning God *vs.* Pardoning God

Threatening God *vs.* Accepting God

-3-

**Adoption is to the Father
(4:4-7)**

We're "known by God" (4:9).

Factual knowledge

vs.

Relational knowledge

**To be known by God is to be
known as His adopted child.**

**“The Lord knows those who are his”
(2 Tim. 2:19).**

**Christ “calls his own sheep by name
and leads them out” (John 10:3).**

He knows everything about us.

He embraces us with a special love.

He delights in us and approves of us.

**“Being known by God is the full and
final comfort of the believer.”**

Richard Baxter

Pastoral Counsel



**We're called to live in a manner that's
consistent with our identity in Christ.**

By way of challenge ...

“Like father like son”

**We’re to be “imitators of God,
as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1).**

First, we imitate our Father's *goodness*.

“Be merciful even as your Father is merciful” (Lk. 6:36). “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:44–45).

Second, we imitate our Father's *holiness*.

“You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16). “Be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).

What is our chief act of worship?

Exaltation?

Adoration?

Imitation?

By way of comfort ...

“God is love” (1 John 4:8).

**As adopted sons, we can be certain
our Father loves us.**

**God provides for us (Matt. 6:26), welcomes us
into His presence (Eph. 3:12), watches over us
(Rom. 8:28), and guards us (1 Pet. 1:5).**

**“He knows our frame; he remembers that we
are dust” (Ps. 103:14).**

**As adopted sons, we can trust our Father
with the details of our lives.**

**His wisdom isn't our wisdom, and His
ways aren't our ways (Rom. 11:33). He
isn't a distant tyrant. He has our best
interests before Him.**

**As adopted sons, we can wait patiently
for our Father's promised inheritance.**

**"If we hope for what we do not see, we
wait for it with patience" (Rom. 8:25).**

**Hope makes this future certainty a
present reality. It's immune to every
illness, threat, grief, worry,
challenge, and loss.**

**We need to savour the sweetness
of this single statement:**

“God is our Father.”

If our *mind* is troubled,
we need to think on this.

Here's stability amid societal decay,
financial woes, health problems, and
broken relationships.

If our *heart* is troubled,
we need to think on this.

Here's strength for enduring difficulty,
hope for facing uncertainty, and peace
for overcoming anxiety.

**If our *conscience* is troubled,
we need to think on this.**

**Here's assurance that God welcomes me
(a penitent sinner) because of Christ
(a sufficient Saviour).**

**“You are a Christian, one highly
beloved, who has found favour
with God.”**

Thomas Wilcox