

Introduction: The Influence of Our Fathers

God has designed the world to function according to headship, a concept that involves responsibility, leadership, and representation. Within families, fathers are given headship and so their influence upon their children for good or ill is significant. Studies show that fathers impact:

- *Attachment Security (Do I belong?)*
- *Self-Worth (Am I valuable?)*
- *Example (Who do I want to become?)*
- *Behavior (How do I want to live?)*
- *Identity (What kind of person am I?)*

Main Point: To be “in Christ” means that we have a new _____ as _____ of God and _____ according to His promises.

Galatians 3:23-29

- Paul describes the _____ of the Law in the life of Israel before the coming of Christ. (vv. 23-24)

- (1) He uses two specific terms to refer to specific ages or dispensations in the passage.

Law

Faith

- (2) He further elaborates on what the Law’s intended _____ were for Israel.

“held captive”—φρουρέω (phroureō)—to hold in custody, detain, confine.

“imprisoned”—συγκλείω (sygkleiō)—to close up together; to confine within specific limits

- These terms further emphasize that the Law was added to highlight _____ (3:19). It served to clearly reveal the sin of the people of Israel and therefore their great need the Lord promised to address.

“guardian”—παιδαγωγός (paidagōgos)—one who has responsibility for someone who needs guidance

- In the Greco-Roman world, these supervisory guardians administered the directives of the father, providing oversight and discipline to shape the behavior of those in their charge.

“...the focus here is on the supervisory function of the law, the inferior status of one under such supervision, and the temporary nature of such a situation...” – R. Longenecker

- (3) Now, however, a new _____ factor has been introduced by God which the Law anticipated.

“until the coming of faith would be revealed”

“until Christ came”

- _____ is the focus of this new age/dispensation. He was the One the Scriptures anticipated would save His people and in His person and work He has secured what the Law itself could not.

“The Law points its way to its own successor, to Christ himself as the fulfillment of all its types and shadows.”
– Matthew Ferris, *If One Uses it Lawfully*

- _____ by faith is now graciously offered to those who have transgressed the Law because Messiah became a curse on their behalf in order to deliver them from judgment (John 1:17).

“...although the grace of God was functioning throughout the OT times, it began to function in some new sense as a result of the ministry of Jesus Christ in His First Coming.” – Renald Showers, *There Really is a Difference*

Key Point: While Israel’s identity centered on the Law and they were responsible before the Lord to _____ it, the Law was never intended to provide the salvation that was secured in Christ.

- Paul then highlights the _____ that have now occurred for believing Jews and Gentiles through Christ. (vv. 25-26)

- (1) In Christ, believing Jews like Paul are no longer _____ the Law.

(2) In Christ, believing Gentiles like the Galatians are no longer _____ from God (Eph. 2:11-13).

Key Point: Believing Jews and Gentiles now have a _____ identity in Christ and live under _____ as the ruling factor of this age/dispensation.

- Paul further explains what it means for believers to be _____. (vv. 27-29)

(1) Believers have a spiritual _____ with Christ by faith.

“you...were baptized into Christ”

- The physical act of baptism points to a greater reality where the life of the believer has been joined to Christ and has been _____ placed into Him.

“Baptism represents a fundamental change in the spiritual existence of the believer, so the importance and symbolism of the act itself cannot be underestimated.” – Michael Burer

“you...have put on Christ”

- The picture here is of the _____ that occurs in the believer who is now in Christ.

“This image implies much that Paul does not flesh out here: a new nature, new behavior, substitution, perhaps even imputation...[it] highlights the full inclusion in God’s family of all who are baptized into Christ.” – Michael Burer

(2) To be in Christ means that all, despite their _____ status or situation in life have equal standing before God.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no MALE AND FEMALE...”

- Paul is not saying that these ethnic, social, and biological realities no longer exist, or have no place in the _____, he is instead saying that they are not barriers to having a full standing before God.

“you are all one in Christ Jesus”

(3) In Christ, they are rightly related to God even as Abraham was and are _____ of the blessing promised to him in Genesis 12:3.

“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

- Against the likely arguments of the Jewish false teachers, Paul asserts that they are already part of God’s family because they share the _____ of Abraham.

- They are therefore heirs of the salvation that was _____ to him and his offspring.

“The law could not produce true sons of God, for the law only precipitated more sin. Therefore, the only way one can legitimately be called the offspring of Abraham is for one to belong to Christ.” – Tom Schreiner

Key Point: The change in identity that we experience in Christ also reorients the _____ of life.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

The Galatians should understand that the Law has served its temporary purpose in pointing them toward faith in Christ and that it cannot provide anything more for them than is already theirs in Christ.

Concluding Thoughts

1. In Christ, we are _____ from the curse of the Law.

2. In Christ, we are _____ and _____ in Him.

3. In Christ, we are _____ to faithfully live out the vocations assigned to us in life.

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Concluding Thoughts

1. In Christ, we are delivered from the curse of the Law.

2. In Christ, we are guarded and kept in Him.

3. In Christ, we are enabled to faithfully live out the vocations assigned to us in life.