

“Lord, let me grow up, before I grow old.”

John Wimber

“The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.”

Wilhelm Stekel
Austrian psychoanalyst

*What distinguishes
a spiritual child
from
a spiritual adult?*



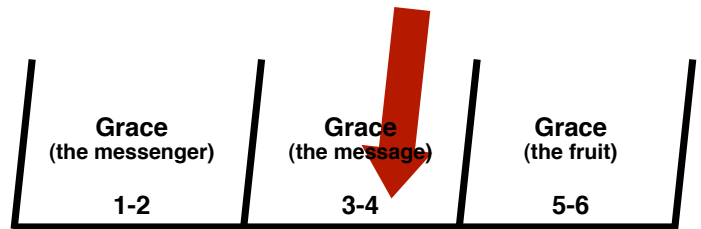
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GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

**Spiritual children
and Adults**

The letter to the **Galatians**



Paul has authority to speak from God on matters of the Gospel!

How are the Old and New Covenants related?

Does grace discourage disciplined living?

Galatians 4

“1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. 3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.”

spiritual children

bound under law

Rules driven

Slave Hireling

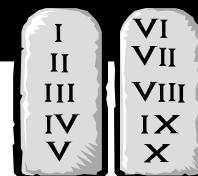
spiritual adults

free from the law

Spirit led

Owner Operator

**Christians should
be free from the Law as a covenant
but not free from the Law as an
ethical guide**



**Above
the Law
(Libertines)**

**Under
the Law
(Jews)**

**Outside
the Law
(Gentiles)**

Tests of a virtuous act

- ✓ *Is it directly addressed in Scripture?*
- ✓ *Is it motivated by love?*
- ✓ *Is it sensitive to the context and time?*
- ✓ *Is it freely chosen?*

Galatians 4

“4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

spiritual children

bound under law

Rules driven
Slave Hiring

**Focus on
Jesus' life**

spiritual adults

free from the law

Spirit led
Owner Operator

**Focus on
Jesus' death**

The work of Christ

- ✓ *He came in the fullness of time.*
The drama of redemption is a linear story.



- ✓ *He ministered under the law.*
Jesus' teaching is in the context of the Old Covenant.

- ✓ *He redeemed and adopted.*
Jesus did not reject the Law but fulfilled its demands so that it could never return to condemn us.

Implications for us today

- ✓ *The ministry of Christ is centered on his **death and resurrection** (which brings us into our inheritance) not his teaching and miracles.*
- ✓ *The **life of Christ** is preparation for our redemption not the essence of it.*
- ✓ *Disciples of Jesus major on the **Word of the Cross** not social reform.*
- ✓ *Redemption of the individual is the key to any reforms in society not supplementary to it.*

Set your mind on the Spirit and the Word of the Cross.

Two visions of Christianity

The Incarnation



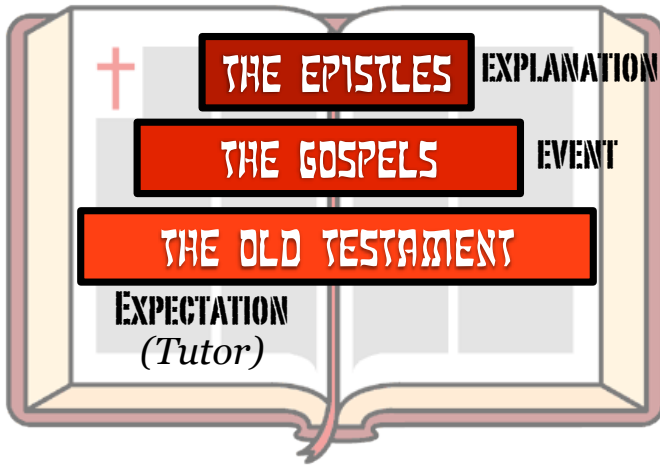
The Crucifixion



Peace with Man comes from the Peace of God that is the fruit of Peace with God.



THE GOSPEL STORY



The great symbols of the faith



The Cross



The Bread and Cup



Baptism

**remind us of the great center
of our faith**

***Christianity that does not
begin with the individual
does not begin.***

***Christianity that ends
with the individual
ends.”***

Galatians 4

“6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

spiritual children

bound under law

Rules driven

Slave Hireling

Focus on Jesus' life

**Spiritual
alienation**

spiritual adults

free from the law

Spirit led

Owner Operator

Focus on Jesus' death

**Spiritual
intimacy**

We act like spiritual adults when we:

1. Live by faith, hope, and love.
Not by external rules.
2. Set our minds on the Spirit and the Word of the Cross.
Not the demands of the law.
3. Cultivate intimacy with God.
Not when we work for blessings.

**“It’s not who you are
that holds you back,
it’s who you think
you’re not.”**

Author Unknown