

Adoption: From Servants to Sons & Daughters

(Galatians 4:1-7)

Introduction Thought: Regeneration and Adoption

What is the relationship?

- They are the two ways of describing how we become a part of the family of God
 - Regeneration – “Born into God’s family as a child of God”. (condition, entry)
 - Adoption – “Placed into God’s family as an adult son/daughter of God”. (position, enjoyment)

The Text

I. What We Were (vv.1-3)

- The heir (child) and the servant. Child has inheritance but can’t enjoy it!
- In a sense the child is under bondage.
- This is analogous to the condition of humanity. Under the law we were children under bondage. The law represents the “ABC’s” of faith.

II. What God Did (vv. 4-5)

A. The Right Period

"the fullness of time" - when the world was providentially ready" (old religions and philosophies dying; access that the Roman Empire provided)

B. The Right Person: "sent his Son, made of a woman..."

C. The Right Provision: "redemption" - buying back for the sake of setting free

III. What We Are (vv.6,7) Sons/Daughters and Heirs

A. A New Position: Adult sons/daughters

- We have certain privileges
- We share in the riches of God

B. An indwelling Presence:

- The Spirit confirms our adoption
- The Spirit enables us to share in God's nature

C. A Future Promise