



**Series:** Life in the Favor of Jesus

**Passage** Galatians 4:1-20

**Title** Not Slaves but Sons

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**Discussion Starter:** List some benefits of being a son (daughter) of God. List some of the detriments of being a slave to performance who must prove his worth. How would these two very different positions effect our lives?

**The Bondage of a slave** (working for worth) **VS the freedom of a son:** (Galatians 4:1-7)

- Galatians 4:3 “*we were in bondage under the elements of the world.*” When you reflect on your past, were there some things that kept you in bondage? Was it achievements, failures, status, possessions, relationships, clothes or something else?
- 4:4 “*In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son*” God revealed Himself personally! The Infinite God became a Finite Man. Why was it necessary for God to more fully reveal Himself to man since He had already revealed Himself through **CREATION, CONSCIENCE, and the LAW**?
- Now that we are in Christ, how do we combat this spiritual battle when Satan, the hater of our souls, tells us that we are not good enough or we are not doing enough to earn God’s approval?
- Galatians 4:6 “*God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying out Abba Father*”. What does this reveal to you about the type of relationship God is desiring to share with us His children? Are you experiencing this type of intimacy with God or are you still trying to earn your way into His favor?

**Knowing and Being Known by God** (Galatians 4:8-12)

- Galatians 4:9 In your own words, explain what it means to you to be **known by God**? How has knowing God and being known by God impacted your life?
- Paul (as Saul of Tarsus) was once rocketing forward as a well-respected Pharisee and yet he found himself under the bondage / slavery of performance in his elite religious position. Jesus found Paul and his entire life changed by Christ’s grace. Now in v12 Paul encourages the Galatians to: “*become like me for I became like you.*” What does Paul mean by this?
- As Saul serving God was a **job**, as Paul serving Jesus was a **joy**. How do we view our own service to Jesus? Is it our chief joy or is it just work? Explain your answer.

**Experiencing Jesus’ Grace by Serving Him** (Galatians 4:13-20)

- 4:13 implies Paul had gone to this region of Galatia because he was ill (this was not a place where he had planned to go). Nonetheless God used it and Paul planted a church there. What does this reveal to you about how God leads us? About how God uses us right where we are?
- Paul knew that an enemy had crept into the church of Galatia and that false teachers were turning many against the purity of the Gospel and against him. Why is the truth not always received by people with open arms?
- Why do false teachers often acquire such large followings? What are some of the trademarks we see Paul describing about false teachers (also see Acts 20:27-31)? What do we learn from Paul about how to help ourselves and others from the lure of false teachers?