

Champions/Women of Destiny

Year 2 LESSON 15



No Longer Kids

Read Galatians 4:1-20

Think about some of your past experiences like learning how to walk, riding a bike for the first time, going to school for the first time; even the first time you had a crush on a superhero on TV, a movie actor or actress or someone else unrealistic. All these experiences are a part of growing up.

But as we grow older, childhood experiences and fantasies seem silly to us and are gradually replaced with more realistic, adult interests. With those interests come new responsibilities that increase the older we become.



The same is true of the Christian life. As we mature in our walk with God, He gives us new desires, dreams and directives that will please Him. So you must put away the high chair, diapers and bottles because it's time to walk on your own two feet and feed yourself from the rich nourishment found in God's Word.

This lesson is going to focus on the development of the Christian life. It's easy to live for Jesus in a KAA environment, but it's time to live the real life at home. So let's see what Paul said to the Galatians concerning this and how you can apply this to your life.

How Adoption Works

We receive the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham's spiritual seed when we trust Christ by faith (Galatians 3:29). We are then **adopted children with God as our Father** (Galatians 4:5). Contrary to the usual meaning of the English word adoption, it means something unique in verse five. There, the word **adoption refers to the privileges and responsibilities of an adult son or son of legal age**. It doesn't refer to taking an orphan child into a family. Paul told the Galatians that the Christian who lives under the law is still a servant or a slave. It's time for us to start living like adopted sons. But how?

Importance of Worship

We can live like adopted children by **worshiping God alone**. Before they became Christians, many Galatians had participated in customs of idolatry, meaningless rituals, and worship of pagan gods. This is no different from what you and I may have been into before we became Christians.



Although we may not have actual idol worship in our country today, millions of people practice modern-day idolatry in their desire for money, pleasure, success, etc. When we trust Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit works in our lives and leads us to worship and praise God alone.

Legalism = Bondage

Although the Galatians gave up their idols when they became Christians, they still struggled with the **legalism of the Judaizers** (Galatians 4:9). As you studied in earlier lessons, the Judaizers stressed **salvation by grace, plus legalism of the Mosaic Law**. No bondage is stronger than religious slavery. Maybe you've recognized similar bondage in the articles and



news reports you read about the people in China, India, Japan, and Iraq. These folks are slaves of religious fear and superstition with their shrines, idols, penances (self-inflicted punishment), prayer beads, tarot cards, etc.

Even in our own churches, as well as in our daily living, it's easy to become slaves to legalism. While many Christians agree that salvation by works is legalistic, they don't spot other forms of legalism – even those right before their eyes. Legalism can affect our outlook and

attitude in a variety of ways. Sometimes it's merely looking down on other Christians who don't attend church as faithfully as we do. Or sometimes it's judging, as less spiritual, Christians who don't conform to traditional styles of dress or hair. The fact is that Christ alone saves and keeps, and nothing we do will alter this fact.

Growing Up

Just as growing up physically introduces a whole list of changes in our lives, growing up in Christ as His adopted children should also produce changes in our walk with Him.

Take a long look at your life and compare yourself to when you first became a Christian. (If you were saved at a very early age, you may not find many noticeable changes.)

Have you grown in your walk with God, or are you still the same person? If your life isn't different, are you sure you have really trusted or put your faith in Christ? (see 2 Cor. 5:17)

Our walk with God should be growing deeper all the time. If we backslide, however, God will restore us to a closer walk with Him when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9).

1 GOTTA ASK

Are there any idols or legalism holding you in bondage? An idol is anything that takes God's place of dominance in your lives or interferes with your walk with Him. Make a list of idols you can identify in your life, then confess them, turn away and turn back to God.

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsLyr9OqM_0

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Year 2 LESSON 15 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/PB9DoydGHvjuAPYP7>

Student name _____
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. List a couple of lessons about life that were difficult for you to learn while growing up physically.
2. Multiple Choice. All Christians are heirs of the promise made to whom?
a) Moses b) Abraham c) David d) Solomon
3. How do we live like adopted children?
4. Fill in the Blanks. "We are adopted _____ with God as our _____."
5. Define adoption.
6. True/False. Religious bondage is alive and well in many of our churches today. Explain your answer.
7. Fill in the blank. The Galatian Christians struggled with the legalism of the _____.
8. List five ways people from India, China, Japan, and Iraq have fallen into religious bondage.
9. Is there religious bondage in your church? If so, how is it practiced?
10. What is the greatest idol in your life? How can you turn your back on this idol?