

Position & Privilege

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Single Mom's Fri Night group is down to 1 person to help with the 20 kids and can use someone to help watch kids. See Vanessa after service.

II. Intro:

- A. Slide2 Let's start with this 25 sec heartwarming video showing the reunion between 2 toddlers who became best friends at a Chinese orphanage, only to be separated when one was adopted. Hannah, 4, and Dawson, 3, hadn't seen each other for 11 months when they embraced at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport last week. Now, they each have a new home in Texas.
- B. When a child is **adopted** or **fostered**, or even brought into a **blended** marriage, often they wondering, *can I/should I call you mom/dad?*
1. Asking, *will they accept me not just into their home, but also into their family?...*there is a big difference.
 - a) It's important that it is more than a **positional** relationship, but that it is an **experiential** one?
- C. Would you rather be a slave or a son? Cleaning the mansion or living in one? Being property or owning property? Watching over someone's estate or inheriting a father's fortune?¹

III. Slide3-5 SONS & HEIRS (1-7) title: Position & Privilege

- A. SONS (1-6)
- B. Remember from last week we are no longer imprisoned/*confined* because of **sin** (22) & no longer *kept under guard* with the **Law** standing duty (23).
- C. (1,2) As an **underage child** or **slave**, there is *no possession or inheritance, no decision-making rights, and no freedom.*
- D. Slide6 Coming of age, child to adult...
1. In **Judaism** a boy passed into manhood shortly after age 12, *Barmitsva*.

¹ Charles Swindoll, pg.76

2. In the **Greek world** it was at about 18 years old at a festival called *Apatouria*.
 3. Under **Roman law** the time was not fixed. The father had discretion in setting the time of his son's maturity. It took place at a festival called *Liberalia*, held annually on March 17th.²
- E. **Slide7 (4) The fullness of time** - a time appointed by the father (2).
1. **Humanly speaking** – It was a *perfect* time on earth for **Jesus** to come.
 - a) Roman Law was in place & thus **political stability**.
 - b) The famed **Roman Roads** connected the known world.
 - c) The **Greek Language** brought the world of trade together.
 2. **Heavenly speaking** – This was *a gift of Grace* from God.
- F. **Slide8 (5) Adoption:** the giving to any one the **name & place & privileges** of a **son** who is **not** a son by birth. **3 Biblical ways it's used...**
1. **Natural** - Pharaoh's daughter adopted *Moses* Ex 2:10. Mordecai adopted *Esther* Es.2:7
 2. **National** - God adopted Israel, *Thus says the Lord: Israel is My son, My firstborn.* Ex4:22
 3. **Spiritual** - An act of God's grace by which he brings men into the **#** of his redeemed family & makes them partakers of all the blessings He has provided for them. Rom.8:12-17
- G. **Usually 1st century adoption wasn't a cute little baby.** In the 1st century Roman world they didn't adopt an **infant** *because* infant mortality rate was *very high*.
1. **Nor** was it the norm to adopt **toddlers**, as you were not sure what they were going to turn out like. **It was usually when they were older.**
- H. **Slide9 Adoption** – is a family concept.
1. Adoption involves the placing of a family member into the **privileges & blessings** of **adulthood**.
 2. The adopted person had all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family, & completely lost all rights in his old family.
 3. In the eyes of the law he was *a new person*.

² The Expositors Bible Commentary, Vol.10, pg.471.

4. Even all *debts & obligations* from his previous family were abolished.

I. Slide10 (6) Ok, God is in your **mind**...you know about Him...**but** what about His Spirit living today in your **heart**?

1. Just as the **Father** sent forth His **Son** into the World, So **He** sent the **Spirit** of His Son into our hearts.³

J. **Abba** – more associated with **intimacy** *than* infancy.

1. **Before that**, it had been much *too familiar & personal*. **But now** if you are *in Christ* you enter into this **intimate** relation w/God & **inherit** the promises of God.

K. Slide11 HEIRS (7)

L. In the Roman Empire, people were either **slaves** or they were **free**. These 2 statuses were central to the **social** and the **legal** fabric of the Roman world. **Unlike** in recent history, **slavery in Rome** was not based on race or ethnicity; anyone could become a slave and nearly any slave could become free. **Consequently**, the Roman world was composed of these 2 groups of people who lived & worked together & were distinguishable by their social status.⁴

M. Slide12a No longer a slave – Do you still find yourself *enslaved* to anything Christian?

1. You say as a Christian...*I still struggle with alcohol, or drugs, or getting off prescription med's, eating disorders, or pornography.*

a) I have good news Christians you *don't have* to be.

2. Slide12b Read this again, *you are no longer a slave!!! Say this w/me, I am no longer a slave! Now say this w/me, I am no longer a slave to _____ !*

N. Slide13 Then an heir – *Read* Eph.1:3.

1. A child must wait until maturity to inherit the family wealth, **but** God's children can have His wealth *now*.

a) **My dad** gave each of my brothers & sisters an early inheritance after my mom died, so we could *“enjoy it while he was still alive, & when we could use it most.”*

³ Shepherd's Notes; pg.54

⁴ Faith Life Study Bible. Logos.

b) Kelly's mom left her things that were very special to her before she died. She marked them with *Kel's name* on them, so they specifically would go *to her*.

2. What are you going to leave as an inheritance to your kids?

a) No, not money & possessions *per se*.

b) What's important to you? How are you going to leave it behind?...or convey it? What about your stories? Family traditions? What do you want to show them, teach them?

O. Notice: redemption (5a), adoption (5b) regeneration (6,7).

IV. Slide14 FEAR & DOUBTS (8-20)

A. Slide15 Known by God (8-11)

B. Before the Galatians became Christians, they worshiped the pagan deities.

C. (9) Paul's deep concern was that they were about to exchange their *spiritual heritage* for *a bowl of red stew*...like Esau.

D. We ask *do you know the Lord?* Oh, but to be *known by God*. He knows me so intimately.

1. He knows my **weaknesses** (& how to meet my needs of encouragement, or support)

2. He knows my **strengths** (& how I might be puff up w/pride, *thus* He keeps them in check)

a) **Known by God** – reminds us salvation is a work *of God*.

(1) *He knows my hurts, my phobias, my concerns, my stumbling blocks, my name, He knows me!*

E. **Turn again** – backsliding. [It's not because God sent them out *like* a Hoola Hoop w/a backspin. Nor did he send them forward *uphill*, only to roll back down again]

1. They were turning back or sliding back themselves - You might have thought it was *Paul Simon* who 1st sang, *Slip sliding away, slip sliding away...You know the nearer your destination, the more you slip sliding away*. But no, it was the *Judaizers*.

F. **You desire again to be in bondage?** I saw this bondage in India.

1. Having to **feed** their gods, or bring them **flowers**. Appease them. Ornate flowered decorations in front of Houses. **Washing their sins away in the dirty Ganges (Gan-jeez) River**. [To wash in its waters or to be cremated on its

banks & have your ashes immersed in its waters, ensures salvation of the soul]

G. Paul checked on those he loved.

1. He made time to write or visit, encourage or admonish, spank them or hug them.
2. How about doing that this week w/someone you love?

H. (10) Paul implies that bondage to the Law is the same as their bondage to pagan gods. (ouch)

1. Both systems demanded that their followers observe special days & seasons.

I. Are you more of a Christian Sunday morning than on Friday nights? (Should there be a difference)

J. (11) Ever feel maybe you've failed in discipling someone? Paul did.

K. Let's stop trying to earn the approval of our Father, who has already accepted us & adopted us in Christ Jesus.

L. Slide16 Personal Plea (12-16)

M. (12) Paul had become like the Galatians so they could hear the gospel. Now he was urging the Galatians to become like him & live the gospel.

N. (15) Eye disease? Malaria? Epilepsy? We don't know.

O. Slide17 Passionate Plea (17-20)

P. (17) Don't support ministries that make you zealous for them & their ministry, rather than for Jesus.

Q. (19) Do you love those whom you minister to?

1. Could you compare any experience w/one person you've tried to reach with the gospel, or someone you've tried to disciple, as labor pains?

R. Is Christ being formed in you?

1. The essential form, not the outward shape (i.e. real Christlike character)
2. Slide18 2 Cor.3:18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

a) Paul wasn't interested in just *getting them saved*...**but** **shaping** them into the **image** of **Christ**.

S. (20) Haven't you said the same about anyone? *They say they are a Christian...but I don't see any fruit in their lives*. I have doubts about them.

V. Slide19 **BOND & FREE (21-26)**

A. Slide20 Remember when *Daffy Duck* would somehow get blown up? His feathers would be ruffled or blown off & often times his bill would spin around backwards. [*despicable*]

1. That's how I picture these Judaizers, when Paul gets done with this next **allegory**.

B. An allegory of contrasting *spiritual slavery & spiritual sonship*.

1. **Note 5 sets of 2's**: 2 mothers, 2 sons, 2 covenants, 2 mountains (Zion implied) & 2 cities.

C. Slide21 Children of the Slave Lady (21-27)

1. **Hagar** is **the Law** (also, the slave woman, & symbolizes Mnt Sinai, the system of obedience to the Mosaic Law).

2. **Sarah** stands for **God's Grace** (And freedom in Christ).

3. **Ishmael** was **born after the flesh** (natural means – represents those enslaved to **legalism**. Also represents our **1st birth/phys**).

4. **Isaac** was born **by the power of God** (supernatural means - represents our **new birth**. And, represented *spiritual children* of Abraham, who were free from the Law by faith in Christ).

5. **Abraham** represents faith, **so**...Isaac was born **by grace** (Sarah) **through faith** (Abraham).⁵

a) Spiritually speaking the Judaizers wanted to bring Hagar back again, **but** she was sent away because **law & grace** cannot coexist.

b) Like **Hagar**, **the law** was a servant that had a temporary ministry. **Once the Son** arrived, that ministry was fulfilled.

⁵ Warren Wiersbe, With The Word, pg.769.

6. How do you think the Judaizers felt about hearing they were **from Ishmael** & not Isaac?

a) Of course Paul wasn't speaking of biological relationships **but** spiritual realities.

D. **Slide22** Children of Lady Liberty (28-31)

E. (30) **Cast out** – Paul sees a *reenactment* of this trouble.

1. The **inheritance** can't go to both. Paul is calling for a strong solution.

2. **What needs to be cast out of your life? Are you intoxicated with your title, position, or the letters after your name?**

F. (31) **Is your Christianity a free one?**

1. **Unshackled, unfettered, unencumbered, no longer imprisoned** by the **Law** or **rituals**.

2. Not frolicking foolishly...**but FREE**.

3. **Slide23** **The statue of Liberty** is a perfect picture of this, look close next time. The chains underfoot stand for *Liberty crushing the chains of slavery*.

4. We are **children...of the free**.