

BELIEVERS IN JESUS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

Galatians 4:1-9

Introduction: It may not look like it or sound like it very much, that Christianity has impacted the world or even made a "dent" in it, however there is much about being a Christian that the world does not see. The Christian has been changed from an enemy to God to a friend and even a child, no longer obeying God because he/she had to like a slave or hired servant, but now comes to God as one of His children, being adopted, now a beloved child. Christians may lack the "outward" appearance, whatever that may be, of being different, but on the inside, God has made all the difference in the world.

I. THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD HAS BEEN CHANGED

1. Every Christian changes from being an enemy of God to being a son or daughter of God.
 - The Jews were called "God's peculiar people" but never called His Sons and Daughters, but called His servants.
 - The Jews were under severe and burdensome restraints, having a small portion of their inheritance in actual enjoyment and performed their duties to God in the role of servants. (*vv1-3*).
 - However the Christian is regarded as a son, a daughter who is free from the restraints the Jews had and enjoy a spirit of liberty throughout all their life as a child of God.
2. The Christian enjoys being a child of God because of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus has redeemed the believer from the bondage that the Jews were under.
 - Gentiles were never under the Jewish laws, but were under moral law and its penalties.
 - Jesus has suffered all penalties of the law, fulfilled all its demands for all who would believe in Him, thus freeing the believer from the law, bringing the believer into adoption as a child of God, not a servant or a slave.

II. THE CHRISTIAN ENJOYS PRIVILEGES THAT UNBELIEVERS DO NOT

1. The Holy Spirit is sent into the heart of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - *Romans 8:9: "...But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His..."*
 - It is through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit that the Christian goes to God, the Father to receive blessings.
 - *"...For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father..."*
(*Ephesians 2:18*)
2. The Christian has freedom to God.
 - The Jews dared not draw near to God within the limits set by God, however when Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple that separated God from them was torn from top to bottom, opening up a new way for people to get to God.

3. The Christian has boldness to come before God with his/her wants.
 - There were things that the Jews dared not ask of God, but for the Christian, there is no limit, for anything asked within God's will, it will be granted.
4. The Christian has confidence in God's care.
 - A servant may hope for attention but a son/daughter is assured of attention from his/her father.
 - The child of God has no fear that his/her heavenly Father will fail to care for his/her needs.
 - Being adopted into God's family assures the believer that God will never leave him/her or forsake him/her but will make all things work together for his/her ultimate good.
5. The Christian is assured of his/her coming inheritance.
 - The servant has no hope of inheriting anything from his/her master, but the son knows that he has a title to his father's inheritance and that someday he will inherit what his father leaves to him.
 - The Christian is assured of his/her title to heaven and of all that is there.
 - He/she has been promised not only God's grace, but glory and will receive an inheritance ***"...incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for him/her, who is also kept by the power of God for it..." "Who shall separate him/her from this...?" NOTHING!***

CONCLUSION:

1. How little is the true benefits of the Christian understood by the rest of the unbelieving world.
 - Many see Christianity as a system of dos and don'ts, of doctrines and duties.
 - It truth, Christianity is a system of privileges.
 - It takes people out of the world, nobodies to the world and makes them prince and princes', heirs to the kingdom of God.
2. Christianity takes strangers, foreigners and brings them into the family of God, making them sons and daughters of God.
 - ***"...Behold, what manner of love is this, wherewith the Father hath loved us, that we should be called the sons/daughters of God..."***
3. How grateful every Christian should be that so many blessings is his/hers.
 - Sadly, so many Christians are led by the Satan, the world, and self, to g back into the bondage from which they had been redeemed.
4. Christian! Stand fast in the freedom which Jesus Christ has placed you.