

October 26/27, 2002

Study Questions
Free Indeed: A Study in the Epistle of Galatians
Who's Your Mother?
Galatians 4:21-31

Opening Discussion

1. Is grace a license for sin? Why or why not?
2. Is grace an absence of standards or convictions? Explain.
3. Which will conform us to the image of Christ, law or grace? Then why do we revert to law?
4. How do we respond to someone who claims to be a Christian but seems to have no conviction of sin? Is it possible to sin as a way of life without conviction if Galatians 2:20 and 4:6 are true? How do we process our response through the grid of law and grace? What would a grace-filled response look like? What would a law-filled response look like?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 16:1-6; 21:1-13 as background for the Galatians text.
2. Compare Galatians 4:21-23 with the Genesis account.
3. In 4:24 Paul tells the reader this Old Testament narrative provides an allegory for us today. While the narrative is real, it also pictures a greater reality. It is very dangerous to allegorize Scripture unless there is clear evidence from the text that this is intended by God.
4. What are the relevant details of the allegory? The best way to study this is to create two columns: one for Sarah and one for Hagar. Record the details Paul identifies in the appropriate columns.
5. How does this allegory provide a contrast between religion and faith in Christ? How are they alike and how do they differ?
6. Galatians 4:27 is a quote from Isaiah 54:1. Isaiah prophesied that the descendants of Abraham would be more in number after the exile than before the exile. How does that line up with what Paul said about us in Galatians 3:7?

Who is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy?

7. What can we expect if we are going to live as grace-filled people according to Galatians 4:29?

What has been your experience with this? Have you found yourself on the persecuting side of legalism, or the persecuted side, or both?

8. How does knowing the truth of 4:29 help us in living a grace-filled life?
9. When Paul refers to casting out the legalists in 4:30, he's referring to those who are sons of Hagar. These are not true believers but those who add law to grace for salvation. How should we respond to those who are legalists in the body like Paul is addressing in 3:3?

Application

1. If Sarah is your mother, are you living like it? Are you guilty of persecuting others who are celebrating their freedom under grace? If so, what needs to change?
2. List three practical things you can do to respond correctly to legalists who persecute you.
3. Summarize Galatians chapters 1-4 in one paragraph.

Put this summary somewhere so you can refer to it daily for the next several weeks as we move into the application section of Galatians.