

**The Ground of
True Christian Unity**

Galatians 3:26 - 29

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Sons No Longer Under the Custodian

Galatians 3:26 (NASB)

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- Sons have obtained the promised inheritance through faith
- Christ is the Son, in His eternal, essential relationship with the Father.
- We are sons in a derived sense
- As sons we do not need a babysitter

2

Cursed by Works or Blessed by Faith

Works	Faith
1. No Justification (Gal. 2:16)	1. Justified (Gal. 2:16)
2. Cursed (3:10, 13)	2. Blessed (3:9)
3. Imprisoned (3:22, 23)	3. Redeemed (3:13)
4. Under Guard (3:23)	4. Received the Spirit (3:14)
5. Under Custody (3:24, 25)	5. Brothers in Christ (3:15)
6. Slave Status (4:1)	6. Believe the Promise (3:22)
7. Under Guardians (4:2)	7. Released from Prison (3:23)
8. Under Stewards (4:2)	8. New Status in Christ (3:27)
9. Slaves to the <i>Stoichea</i> (4:3, 9)	9. No Longer under <i>Stoichea</i> (4:3-7)
10. Enslaved to Idols (4:8)	10. Sons & Heirs of Christ (4:7)

3

Baptism Implies Christian Unity

Galatians 3:27 (HCSB)

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- Baptized means %immersed+or %dipped+
- This is not a magical or mystical practice, but an ordinance that is kept by faith
- %Clothed+is a garment metaphor that was appropriate to the change of status

4

Being One in Christ Is our New Status

Galatians 3:28 (NASB)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- The true Seed of Abraham is Christ, and those who have faith like Abraham are sons and daughters and one in Christ
- What divides people from the world is the gospel; in the church these human distinctives must not divide

5

Faith in Christ Means Being Heirs

Galatians 3:29 (NASB)

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

- Abraham's %Seed+is Christ. Those who believe in Christ have derivative sonship.
- The promise is a legitimate object of faith

6

Implications and Applications

- > Christian unity is grounded in the gospel
- > Christian unity is not dependant on worldly categories of status
- > Baptism is a means of remembering where we came from and believing God's promises

7

Christian Unity Is Grounded in the Gospel

Philippians 1:27 (NASB)

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

- > %Conduct yourselves+ means %live as citizens+
- > Christian unity is gospel unity
- > %the faith+has doctrinal content

8

Christian Unity Is Grounded in the Gospel

Philippians 2:3, 4 (NASB)

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves;** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

- > Our own self-interest will harm Christian Unity
- > Jesus Christ serves as our example of selflessly serving others
- > Christ's interests are for the welfare of His body. These should be ours as well

9

Christian unity is not dependant on worldly categories of status

Philippians 2:20-22 (NASB)

For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. **For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.** But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in **the furtherance of the gospel** like a child serving his father.

10

Baptism is a means of remembering where we came from and believing God's promises

Colossians 2:12 (NASB)

having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which **you were also raised up with Him through faith** in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

11

Baptism is a means of remembering where we came from and believing God's promises

Romans 6:3,4 (NASB)

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**

12
