

“Slaves or Sons” August 22nd 2010



Religiosity vs Freedom in Christ

Religion says I have to bring something to God to earn his approval

Freedom says I have nothing to bring - and we receive something from God (love, mercy, forgiveness)

Freedom to do what?

Freedom is we can go back into sin?

Freedom to live unselfishly and do what is right



Gal 5:1a It is for freedom that Christ has set us free

Paul's analogy - Are we slaves or sons?

Imagine you have a mentor - someone who has been down the road a little bit more - physical, business, but now in a spiritual sense

The Apostle Paul saying to the Galatians "stop you are going the wrong way" moving away from the law.

Gal 5:1b stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery

They worked under Judaea's and they were taught that you need to be under the law to be saved - Paul used to be one of them - until he met and found his freedom in Christ

A son became a man and put aside his robe and moved into adulthood with full rights and responsibilities - when the father deemed it time

Three things that qualify us as son

1. The son is an heir - Galatians 4:6-7 Because you are sons, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, the spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son. God has made you also an heir."
2. Relationship - God is committed with us having a relationship with us. Only your children can call you Dad!
3. We experience grace - why would you go back? What goes around comes around. Principles of grace supersede that and we get what we don't deserve - we get love, grace, forgiveness - grace is sign of sonship

Three things that will push your dial back to slavery

1. Religion - takes us back into a legalistic set of rules
2. Performance - Mary and Martha story - Martha involved in performance. I have to do this to please God!
3. Duty- Why did I come to church today?

Slavery - Cause I always come - every Sunday

- Cause I have a job to do - communion. Coffee cart, position

Freedom - cause I love Christ and I want to worship, love my friends and grow in Christ

Different between slaves and sons

They can be hard to spot - we have a mask that we put on and it makes us look like we are all good with Christ

Differences lie in our motives and attitudes - if we don't have love it is nothing

Clearly picked in the motive and attitudes - people are growing in the fruit in their lives

Prodigal son - Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.

Sons recognize that we are not worthy of the father's love.'

Luke 15:29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.

The older son was working out of duty.