

## 6. The freeborn son

### Galatians 4:1-31

*1. Isn't circumcision the most important covenant marker, the sign of God's favour?* Answer : No, that is faith.

*2. Abraham had faith, but was still required to circumcise his offspring. So doesn't that mean that circumcision and the other rituals of the law still matter?*

Answer: No, that is to misunderstand the law. (3:15-29)

*3. So the law has no relevance to Christians then? We can just do what we like?*

Answer: The law guarantees our freedom (ch 4. Also ch5)

## Included in Christ (as in chapter 3)

1. Adoption as sons (4:1-7)
2. Why go back? (4:8-20)
3. Free citizens (4:21-31)

## 1. Adoption as sons (4:1-7)

The family resemblance:

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (NIV Lk 6:35–36)

The legal requirements have been met (vv4,5)

Graduation (vv1-3): No more ABC!

Free adults make their own decisions (v1)

## 2. Why go back? (4:8-20)

... back to captivity (v8)

... back to childhood (vv9,10)

... back to your elementary teachers,  
rejecting Paul (vv11-18)

... so go back to babyhood! (v19)

### 3. Free citizens (4:21-31)

Two sons, two mountains

A slave and a freeborn son

Nature and Spirit cannot coexist (vv29,30)

Mount Sinai is in Arabia,

territory of the slave woman's son

Mount Zion is the mount of promise, only

Jerusalem is in slavery!

### 3. Free citizens (4:21-31)

Freedom and citizenship are inextricably linked

The free mother is the free city (v26)

The birth pains are also a cry of joy (v27 - Isaiah 2:2)

Free Jerusalem is from above, heavenly (Isaiah 2)

God's people are free to be model citizens of the holy city (5:13).