



Galatians - Chapters 4:21 – 5:1

The Life of Legalism Portrayed: Part 3

Holly Hills Bible Church – December 7, 2025



Review

Q: Who is Paul talking to in this section?

Galatian believers who wanted to put themselves under the law.

Q: How many “Father’s are there in this illustration?

Only one.

Q: How many sons are there?

Two.



Review

Q: What makes these 2 sons different?

Their mother.

“One by the bond woman”

“One by the free woman”

Q: And what was the nature of those two births?

Born according to (kata) ~~the~~ flesh.

Born through (dia) ~~the~~ promise.



Review

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Born through (dia) ~~the~~ promise. = born according to the Spirit



Review

Q: In v.24 when Paul says “this is allegorically speaking, does this mean that Genesis is an allegory?

No! Paul taking literal history and applying it allegorically or figuratively.

Q: What do these two mothers stand for?

- 2 “covenants” διαθήκη
- a covenant of Law
 - a covenant of Promise



Review

Q: What covenant is represented by Hagar?

the Law covenant given at Sinai

Q: Which “Jerusalem” does Hagar/Mt Sinai correspond to?

“present Jerusalem”

Q: What is the other Jerusalem that Paul contrasts with the “present Jerusalem” in v.26?

“the Jerusalem above”



Review

Q: Who are the children of the “Jerusalem above”?

those who have been born again” by faith.



Summary

Paul is showing us a very clear OT illustration of:

- the natural born son who is born into ***slavery***

And

- the spiritually born son who is born into ***freedom***

This is a picture of:

- Adam's race
- The new race of men that God has created in Christ.



Verse 27

Q: Where is Paul quoting from in v.27, and why?

Isaiah 54

Isaiah 54 pictures the New Jerusalem as a **barren** mother.

Christ's death and resurrection "opened the womb" of the New Jerusalem!

In light of Isaiah 53, the Jerusalem above rejoices in all the children she has gained through Christ's cross work!



Verse 28

Isaac was born according to the Spirit's Word and not according to natural birth
In the same way, we have been Spiritually born as Christians.



Verse 29

Q: What are the corresponding phrases at the beginning and end of this verse?

As at that time... so it is now also.

Q: What is the point of comparison between “then” and “now”?

...he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit...

Just as Ishmael persecuted Isaac, so now those who are enslaved to law, persecute those who are free from the law.



Verse 30

Q: Who does Paul quote in v.30 and what's his point?

Sarah (Gen 21:10)

Should the Galatians allow the Judaizers to hang around in the church?

NO!



Verse 30

Q: What else should catch our attention in this quote from Sarah?

“HEIR”

Isaac was the promised heir.

Ultimately it is **Christ** who is the heir of the promises.

All those who are united to Christ Jesus are partakers in His inheritance. (see 3:29)



Verse 31

So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

This is true of us in Christ.

We are free from slavery to the law.



Ch5 Verse 1

**It was for freedom that Christ set us free;
therefore keep standing firm and do not be
subject again to a yoke of slavery.**



Ch5 Verse 1

Q: Do we lose our freedom from law if we subject ourselves to it?

As believers we can ***never*** lose our freedom from the law, that's ours as a gift by grace!

BUT, we can still subject ourselves to the law!

We don't lose our ***freedom***. We lose the practical ***exercise*** and enjoyment of that freedom!



Ch5 Verse 1

Q: So how do we “keep standing firm”?

Stay put on the ground where you have been placed.

It comes down to what the Word of God says!

We accept that truth by FAITH!