

Handout for Sermon on Galatians 3:15-29: "Children of the Promise"

Key Scripture: Galatians 3:15-29

Theme: Understanding the relationship between the law and the promise, and embracing our identity as children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. The Law vs. The Promise

- **Paul's Message to the Galatians:** Paul defends the gospel of grace and faith in Jesus, addressing the confusion caused by those who insisted that Christians must follow the Mosaic law.
 - **The Role of the Law:** The law was given as a temporary guide or "guardian" to highlight sin and teach about God's holiness. It pointed out humanity's inability to fulfill God's standards on their own.
 - **The Promise:** God's promise to Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, not through adherence to the law. Christ came to free us from the law's curse by taking upon Himself the punishment for our sins.
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2. Key Concepts

- **The Law as a Guardian:** In ancient cultures, a guardian (or tutor) supervised a child's development. Similarly, the law guided Israel but was never meant to be the final authority.
 - **Faith in Christ:** Through Christ, we are no longer under the law's supervision. We have reached spiritual maturity, where we live by faith in Jesus rather than the letter of the law.
 - **Unity in Christ:** Paul declares that in Christ, distinctions like Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, no longer matter. All believers are one in Christ, united by faith.
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3. Living as Children of the Promise

- **Our Identity in Christ:** Our worth and identity come from being loved by God and redeemed by Jesus, not from status, ethnicity, or works. We are God's children and heirs to His promises.
- **Breaking Down Barriers:** We are called to live out unity in Christ by working to break down the barriers that divide us—whether in the church, our communities, or society as a whole.

- **Reflecting God's Grace:** Embracing the unity we have in Christ means working to create a community that welcomes all people, and being agents of grace, justice, and love in the world.
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4. Application

- **Freedom in Christ:** We are free from the curse of the law, called to live in the grace and love of God. We no longer strive for perfection through works but rest in the righteousness given to us by Christ.
 - **Unity through Action:** Actively work to break down barriers that divide us, challenge injustices, and create a welcoming community where the love of Christ is evident.
 - **Humility and Grace:** Listen and learn from others, recognizing that we are all one in Christ. Examine your heart for any prejudices, and ask God for the grace to see others as He sees them.
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5. A Call to Action

- **Embrace Your Identity:** Live as a child of God, not by striving to follow rules, but by resting in the love and grace of Jesus.
 - **Foster Unity:** Seek out opportunities to break down divisions and foster unity in your church, community, and family.
 - **Live Out the Promise:** Reflect the values of God's kingdom—love, justice, mercy, and humility—in everything you do, and be a living witness to the transformative power of grace.
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Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the promise You made to Abraham, fulfilled in Christ, and extended to all who believe. Help us to embrace the freedom we have in Christ, to live out the unity we share as His followers, and to reflect Your grace in our world. Empower us to be agents of Your kingdom, bringing the good news of Jesus to those around us. In His name, we pray. Amen.