



# LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Fully Free: Free to be yourself: Galatians 4v1-10**

*Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.*

## **Galatians 4:1-9 NIV Adopted by God**

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. <sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

**Galatians 5:1.** It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

## **Comment**

Human beings were the first creatures to be given spiritual as well as physical life. We have the capacity for wonder, mystery and the ability to contemplate eternity, but the overarching story of the bible is about the recovery of the fully free spiritual life that Adam and Eve lost in Eden. Satan deceived them into choosing autonomy from God by eating the forbidden fruit. They wanted to judge right and wrong for themselves, but the result was that they would ‘surely die’, not physically, but spiritually (cf Eph 2v1). Before their spiritual separation from God, Adam and Eve experienced all the 3 things we all look for in life: Significance, Security and Acceptance, but afterwards they were afraid, ashamed, and fractured in their relationships. Although people look to the world's solutions to find fulfilment, full inner freedom can only be recovered by reconnecting spiritually with our creator. Jesus came so that we might have life and life to the full and it is as we are born again spiritually that we can recover our true significance security and acceptance. In his letter to the Galatians (amongst the oldest bits of Christian writing in the Bible) Paul uses another picture of the transformation Jesus brings. Like a slave being redeemed (bought at a price) and being adopted as a son or daughter with the full rights and privileges of heirs, we are adopted into God's family and able to enjoy the intimacy of calling him Abba (Daddy), Father once again. The secure relationship and privileges of Eden are restored to us as the gift of God through Jesus but, Paul warns, let's be careful to be reliant on grace rather than falling into the trap of trying to earn God's love and justify ourselves when that could lead to self-imposed slavery all over again!

## **Questions**

1. What do people tend to do to try to feel significant, secure and accepted? Do you have examples from your own experience?
2. What modern day illustrations of restoration or recovery can you think of to illustrate what Jesus bought for us?
3. Read through the attached sheet of bible verses about significance, security and acceptance restored in Christ. Which ones surprise you most? Which ones particularly encourage you most?

*Perhaps write out one of the verses for each day of the next week and chew on it during that day!*

## Significance, Security and Acceptance Restored in Christ

(adapted from Neil Anderson's "Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course")

**I am Significant:** I am no longer worthless, inadequate, helpless or hopeless. In Christ I am deeply significant and special.

God says:

Mt 5:13,14	I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world
John 15: 1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ.
1Corinthians 3:16	I am and especially my body is a temple of God
2Corinthians 5:17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
2Corinthians 6:1	I am God's fellow worker.
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship, created for good works.
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**I am secure:** I am no longer guilty, unprotected, alone or abandoned. In Christ I am totally secure.

God says:

Romans 8:1-2	I am free forever from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:31-34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Romans 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2Corinthians 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.
1John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

**I am Accepted:** I am no longer rejected, unloved, or dirty. In Christ I am completely accepted.

God says:

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
1Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord and I am one spirit with Him.
1Corinthians 6:19,20	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
1Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's Body.
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint, a holy one.
Ephesians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Ephesians 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven for all my sins.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.
Colossians 2:13	I am fully forgiven of all my sins (no exceptions)