SERMON STUDY GUIDE



October 17, 2010

"Free to Live in God's Family"

from the sermon series Called to be Free

Galatians 3:26-4:7

WE ARE FAMILY: Family does make a difference. If you are raised in Appalachia in an impoverished family, your experience in life and your expectations in life would be very different than if you were Bill and Melinda Gates' child. That's an economic reality. There are other realities about family. Life in a God-centered home would be different than in the home of an atheist.

This study focuses on one great fact—we are part of the family of God. Have you ever thought about that—you are in the family of God? What is it that someone in the family of God should expect in life? Is it as good as being Bill Gates' kid©?

DIVING INTO THE WORD: READ GALATIANS 3:26-4:7

1.	What we are in Christ.	(read these passages and write down what they
	say we as believers are)	
	a. 1 Corinthians 12:27	
	b. Philippians 2:15	
	c. 1 John 3:1	
	d. Ephesians 3:22	
	e. 1 Peter 2:9	

- Out of all these images, which one most resonates with you? Why?
- Why do you think God chose so many different metaphors to describe His people?

2. Who we are and how we got there (3:26-27)

- a. Often we hear the question—"aren't we all children of God"? As you look at this verse, how does it help answer the question? How does a person become a "son of God"? (see also John 1:12)
- b. How does baptism play into this question? (see also Acts 2:37-39, Matthew 28:19-20, and Romans 6:1-10)

3. A Little True Equality (3:28-29)

- a. Verse 28 shows us that all the walls come tumbling down in Jesus Christ. So how far does this equality go—does it mean that churches who only allow men to be elders are ignoring Scripture??
- b. How would this verse be interpreted in light of 1 Timothy 2:11-12?

Reflecting on Today's World: as you look around, it becomes obvious that there are black churches, white churches, rich churches, poor churches, etc. There really aren't that many "multi cultural" or "economically diverse" churches. Is that the way God wants it?

4. Our New Family (4:1-7)

- a. The whole illustration about "heirs" and "trustees"—what is the main point of all this?
- b. There is a great truth in verses 6-7. What is it that God gives to His children? Why is this such an amazing gift?

CHECKING YOUR OWN HEART

Most of us don't really spend a lot of time thinking about how great it is to be part of God's family. But today is a day to do just that. Take a moment to write down the three things that mean the most to you about being in the family:

1.

2.

3.

Now thank God for His wonderful gifts.