

Let Us Know You're Here

New or regular, we'd love to know you're here today. You can also share a prayer request so our team can pray for you this week.



emmanuelcommunity.org/ecard

New to Emmanuel?



E:Connect is a short class designed to help you learn who we are, what we believe, and how to get connected.

Baptism

Baptism is a public declaration of faith for those who have placed their faith in Jesus. Learn more or take your next step at

emmanuelcommunity.org/baptism



Stay Connected



Our **E:Note** email helps you stay connected beyond the weekend with updates, stories, and next steps from around Emmanuel.

emmanuelcommunity.org/newsletter



Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026 | Sons & Daughters - 1 | Galatians 4:1-11 | Sam Ward, pastor

DIFFERENT STORIES, SAME SLAVERY

Galatians 3:29 ...if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. 4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

1. JEWS were seen as natural sons and heirs.

Matthew 3:9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

1. GENTILES were seen as "enslaved to the elementary principles".

Jeremiah 16:20 Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!

2. Jews and the Gentiles are under the SAME SLAVERY!

BUT...GOD SENT HIS SON

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

1. ADOPTION works because of the only true son.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...

- a. The "fullness of time" is GOD'S time.

Mark 1:14 ...Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

- b. Jesus was "born of a WOMAN, born under the LAW to redeem".

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head...

- c. We receive adoption as SONS!

- 2. Adoption was God's plan from BEFORE the BEGINNING.

Ephesians 1:4 ...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ...

ADOPTION MEANS GOD KNOWS YOU

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- 1. YOU can cry out to "Abba, Father".
- 2. This is the Spirit of JESUS crying out.
- 3. Your adoption is revealed in DEPENDENCE, not PERFORMANCE.

GOING BACK IS SLAVERY

Galatians 4:8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

- 1. Paul's Review: YOU. WERE. SLAVES!
- 2. Paul has a PHOBIA...or should I say *phobeō*?
- 3. Paul is shocked that we WANT to go back!

- 4. Wait, WHY do we want to go back?

- a. We are CHILDISH. (Galatians 3:23-4:3)
- b. We want COMFORT and CONTROL rooted in fear.

LIVE LIKE SONS AND DAUGHTERS

- 1. KNOW and be KNOWN.

Galatians 4:9 ...you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God...

- 2. Being known → RELIEF that Jesus has done the work.
- 3. Being an heir → WAITING in hope for "finalization".

Romans 8:23 ...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved....

- 4. Being adopted → CONFIDENCE now, even in the messy middle.

Ask Yourself

When life gets hard, who do I cry out to?