

# Decluttering Christianity

APPLYING GALATIANS TO TODAY



## Preparing Our Children for Adoption (Galatians 3:23-4:7) Decluttering Christianity sermon series By Pastor David Hillis, 05.12.19

**BIG IDEA:** You *might* say our roles as Moms and Dads is *essentially* to prepare them to be adopted.

1. **Under God's law, we were in bondage.** (Galatians 3:23-24, 4:1-3)
  - a. The Law is like a guardian in that it lays down some rules to live by, but those laws don't bring us life because we can't live up to its standard.
  - b. Without Christ, they only remind us of how broken and messed up we are.
  - c. Laws and consequences do a poor job of taking away the urges to break the rules!
  - d. Satan tries to use the Law to accuse and ultimately drive people to despair, death.
  
2. **In Christ, we are accepted by God as His adopted children.** (Galatians 3:25-29, 4:4-7)
  - a. Through our acceptance of Christ's love and His grace, we become God's children.
  - b. We are God's children from the moment we look to Christ and accept God's love, His lordship in our lives as our Heavenly Father.
  - c. Being crucified in Christ means we invite God's Spirit to live through us, and not just draw us into closer relationship with God but to crucify, to kill those old urges, and make us more and more like Christ.
  
3. **As you are intentional in discipling your kids, be careful to put more and more trust yourself in their Heavenly Father.** ([Proverbs 22:6](#))
  - a. When we are intentional in these ways to prepare our kids to be adopted by their Heavenly Father, God asks us to *trust Him* with the rest.
  - b. We need to teach our kids not just to be less dependent upon us, but to be more dependent on their Heavenly Father.
  - c. We need to trust to God with our most precious possessions; our children.

**NEXT STEP:** What can you do to help introduce children under your influence into a real, personal relationship with God? Who do you need to personally entrust to God today?

### FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week, in part 3 of *Decluttering Christianity*, we were in [Galatians 3:23-4:7](#). Read again what he says about how, through faith, people become God's adopted children.

2. In [Galatians 3:21-25](#), Paul declares that the Law was put in place until Christ came, and that it no longer has authority over us. Do you feel like you still have to obey the rules in order to be acceptable to God? What are the things you do (or don't do) in order to obtain God's favor? How would you help someone who thinks that keeping the Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments is enough to be right with God? If rules aren't a means of obtaining salvation, what is the purpose of the commands in the Bible (i.e., to tell the truth, not to steal, to share what you have with others)? What difference does it make when you base your relationship with God upon how well you keep a list of rules, rather than living in light of the truth that God accepts you through faith?
3. Examine your motives this week. Why is it that you do (and don't do) certain things? Are you trying to earn God's approval, or are you living in light of the fact that you have been freely accepted? How should the unconditional love that God has for you affect your life? When you consider the way you view your relationship with God, do you view yourself more as a slave or as a child? What can you do to remind yourself this week that you are a child of God, unconditionally loved by your Father?
4. Consider [Galatians 3:27](#) further. Have you been baptized? If you have accepted Christ's gift of grace, why haven't you been faithful to follow Him in baptism? See [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Acts 2:38-41](#), [8:26-40](#) & [Colossians 2:12-14](#). If you would like to be baptized, let Pastor Dave know today.
5. Consider [Galatians 3:28-29](#) further. Do you believe that, in Christ, every human being are one and the same? That God does not play favorites with His kids? Read [John 17:21](#), [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [Ephesians 2:14-15](#) & [Colossians 3:11](#). How does that inform how you treat those of different races or ethnicities? People of different ages or of a different economic status?
6. To come to a good grasp of what this book teaches, consider reading Galatians each week of the series in a different Bible translation (the [New Living Translation](#), [English Standard Version](#), [Easy-to-Read Version](#), [New Century Version](#) and the [Message](#) are good options). As you read, pay attention to Paul's words and consider his motivations behind them.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES:

- A few months ago a 2-year-old Utah helped Mom out by shredding \$1,060. Here's the [story & video](#).
- There's nothing like becoming a parent to give you perspective and appreciation for all of your mom's sacrifices through the years. Here, video "[I'm Sorry, Mom](#)" is a comical, yet heartfelt, apology and expression of gratitude to moms everywhere!
- **Research shows that almost half of graduating high school seniors struggle deeply with their faith.** Half who are raised in church stop going when they are on their own, and half of that number never go back. Having a faith that sticks takes a bit more than that...but do you know what? Pastor Dave recommends reading *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids* by Dr. Kara Powell & Dr. Chap Clark. Available on [Amazon & Audible](#).
- **Have a teenager or young adult who seems to be growing up and growing apart from you and/or faith?** How do you fight for your child, not against him, or help her navigate tough life decisions? Dr. Kara Powell's followup book *Growing With* is a good resource. Also available on [Amazon](#).