



TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

26 May - 1 June 2019 | Galatians 4:1-7

The Message. God does not only redeem, but also adopt us as His children. He does not only grant us salvation and identity through Christ, but he also wants to have a relationship with us by the Spirit. Knowing our identity in Christ, we shall not live under condemnation or continue to seek/act as our own savior. Knowing God wants to have a relationship with us, we should not just live a law-keeping Christian life. We should continually seek Him and live in relationships daily with God.

Context. Paul explains Christians’ relationship with God in the context of adoption and sonship. Under Roman Law, “it was a recognized practice for an adult who wanted an heir, and someone to carry on the family name, to adopt a male as his son” (Packer). “[T]he adoptee was taken out of his previous state and ‘placed in a new relationship of son to his new father ... All his old debts are canceled, and in effect the adoptee started a new life as part of his new family ... [On the one hand, the new father] owned all the [new offspring’s] property, controlled his personal relationships, and had the rights of discipline. On the other hand, the father was liable for the actions of the adoptee, and each owed the other reciprocal duties of support and maintenance” (Lyall).

Observation & Meaning

1. What does “the elementary principles of world” (4:3) mean?
2. What is the first thing that God does for us through Jesus (4:5a)?
3. What is the second thing God does for us, that comes out of the first (4:5b)?
4. Because of the second thing, what is the third thing God does for us (4:6a)?
5. Because of the third thing, what is the fourth thing God does for us (4:6b)?
6. Because of the fourth thing, what is the fifth thing God does for us (4:7)?

Summarize the five things here.

Redemption	A _ _ _ _ _ n	S _ _ _ _ t	I _ _ _ _ _ y	I _ _ _ _ _ e
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7. What is the connection between the work of Christ and of the Spirit?



Application

ECF. The elementary principles of the world is “a belief system that says we must save ourselves, by worshiping fake gods or by trying to keep religious rules.” (Keller)

8. How the elementary principles of the world may have enslaved us?

Christ-Centeredness

9. What difference does Christ make in our relationships with God?

10. What difference does the Spirit make in our relationships with God?

11. What difference does it make in the way we see ourselves?

12. What difference does it make in the way we see other Christians?

Insight

Fullness of Time (4:4). “The idea behind the phrase is ‘when the time was right.’ Jesus came at just the right time in God’s redemptive plan, when the world was perfectly prepared for God’s work” (Guzik). “It was a time when the *pax Romana* extended over most of the civilized earth and when travel and commerce were therefore possible in a way that had formerly been impossible. Great roads linked the empire of the Caesars, and its diverse regions were linked far more significantly by the all-pervasive language of the Greeks. Add the fact that the world was sunk in a moral abyss so low that even the pagan cried out against it and that spiritual hunger was everywhere evident, and one has a perfect time for the coming of Christ and for the early expansion of the Christian gospel” (Boice).

Resources

City to City Asia Pacific Intensive 2019.

Boice, James Montgomery. *Galatians*. In *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, Vol. 10. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1976.

Guzik, David. *Galatians*. *Enduring Word Commentary*. Enduring Word Media, 2012.

Keller, Timothy. *Gospel Matters: The Good Book Guide to Galatians*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Lyll, Francis. *Slaves, Citizens, Sons: Legal Metaphors in the Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academic Books, 1984.

Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993.

Stott, John. *Reading Galatians with John Stott*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2017.