

Breaking Down Barriers

Read: Galatians 3:23-29

Main Idea: In Christ, we are unified beyond our differences, embodying the love and inclusivity of God's kingdom.

Key Verses: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (**Galatians 3:28, ESV**)

Key Principles:

- The law was a temporary guardian that confined us like prisoners, exposing our sin and preparing us for the coming of faith in Christ.
- Through faith in Christ, we are justified, released from the law's custody and its condemnation as a harsh disciplinarian.
- The Holy Spirit confirms our adoption as sons of God, granting us intimate access to the Father and freeing us from bondage.
- Baptism signifies our union with Christ, clothing us in His identity and making us heirs of God's promises.
- In Christ, worldly divisions of race, class, and gender are rendered insignificant, fostering true equality and fellowship.
- As Abraham's seed through Christ, we inherit eternal blessings, reflecting God's redemptive plan for all believers.

Discussion:

1. How does the imagery of the law as a prison illustrate the bondage of trying to earn salvation? How does this lead you to greater dependence on Christ's justification.
2. In what ways does the law's role as a disciplinarian reveal God's grace in pointing us to faith? How has this shifted your view of Old Testament commands?
3. How does becoming God's child instead of being under a guardian transform daily intimacy with Him amid life's challenges?
4. What does being "baptized into Christ" mean for your identity? How can this truth encourage obedience out of love rather than fear?
5. How does unity across ethnic and social lines challenge divisions in the church today? Discuss practical steps to embody this inclusivity in our faith family.
6. As heirs according to promise, how does sharing in Abraham's blessing fuel hope and boldness in sharing the gospel?

Prayer:

- Pray for faith in Christ's justification, releasing any lingering legalism or self-effort.
- Pray for:
 - Awareness of the intimacy we have with our Father because He adopted us.
 - Unity in the church, breaking down barriers of difference.
 - A bold witness to Christ's kingdom and eternal hope.

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Galatians 3:23-29

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| I. | You have been <u>justified</u> in <u>Christ</u>. | 3:23-24 |
| 1. | You were a <u>captive</u> to the <u>law</u> . | 3:23 |
| 2. | You have been <u>justified</u> by <u>faith</u> . | 3:24 |
| II. | You have been <u>adopted</u> by <u>God</u>. | 3:25-26 |
| 1. | You don't <u>need</u> a <u>guardian</u> . | 3:25 |
| 2. | You now <u>have</u> a <u>Father</u> . | 3:26 |
| III. | You have been <u>unified</u> through <u>Christ</u>. | 3:27-29 |
| 1. | <u>Remember</u> your <u>identity</u> in <u>Christ</u> . | 3:27 |
| 2. | <u>Reject divisions</u> as God's <u>children</u> . | 3:28-29 |

NEXT WEEK:
A Church Without Walls
Acts 10:1-48