

18 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Galatians – week 7

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to explain to a friend or family member that God is a loving Father and Dad, and not a master or boss?
2. According to v.2; what will a good father do to help raise and care for his child? (**Appoint guardians and managers to help raise his child**).
3. True or false; maturity was not defined in the ancient Roman world by age, but rather by the father? (**True, v.2, the date set by the father**).
4. What do we receive according to v.5? (**Adoption as sons/daughters**)

 Let's go deeper

5. What does v.5 mean? (**We receive the blessings and benefits of sonship such as forgiveness of sin, relationship with God, eternal life**).
6. How does the Holy Spirit help us to see God as Father and not as Master or Boss? (**He helps us to see God as Abba Father – see v.6**).
7. Do you view God more as Master or Father? (**A master uses you; a father blesses you. A master motivates by fear, and a father by love**).
8. True or false; God as Father is relational, involved, loving, helpful and a blessing? (**True**).

 Let's apply this

9. God as Master versus God as Father:

A master uses you, and God as Father blesses you.
 You serve a master, and God as Father serve you.
 A master motivates you by fear, God as Father motivates you by love.
 A master beats you down, and God as Father builds you up.
 A master gives no inheritance, God as Father gives you full inheritance.

- **Honestly, do you view God more as Master or Father?**
- **Ask Holy Spirit to reveal God to you, as Abba Father?**

SUMMARY:

- **The book of Galatians – No Other Gospel**

Read: Galatians 4:1 – 8

Paul's message to the Galatians is that God isn't a boss at all. That God is a Father. God isn't absent. He's very involved as a father is with his children. And that God is not seeking performance from his children; He's seeking loving intimacy and relationship with them. God knows that through loving relationship and intimacy, good things happen in our lives. But it's because of who our Dad is, not necessarily because we are making ourselves into appropriate children.

v.1 – 3; The way it worked in the Roman society was the father would love his son, train his son, discipline his son and raise his son. And when he knew the heart of his boy had become a man, he would tell the boy, "today, you're a man." And what he would do then, he would take off the boy's clothes and he would reclothe the boy as a man. That's what Paul is saying here, "We've put off our old self and we have put on Christ. We've clothed ourselves in Christ."

v.4 – 5; The question is then, how do we become mature? He tells us that, "Jesus came, He died for our sins, He rose to conquer our enemies of sin, death and He declared us children of God. Thereby, we have the maturity given to us through Jesus and He gives us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. And now God is our Dad."

Think about how amazing this is. God who created everything out of nothing by the will of His desiring and decreeing it into existence. The God who flooded the earth because He was sick of sin. The God who rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah. The God who killed His enemies. The God who sits on a throne and rules over everything, and you look at Him and you ask Him, "well, what should I call you?" The Jews were so scared of this; they wouldn't even pronounce God's name. God looks at you and He says, "Call me Dad." "Yes, I'm your dad." "That's not what I was expecting. I was expecting to call you, boss and for you to give me a job description and for me to do it in fear.

v.6 – 8; The Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and He brings us to Jesus and He enables us to cry out to God as Father. We're saved by the power of the Holy Spirit through the work of His Son to a loving relationship with God our Father. The Jews thought, "well we are definitely godly people." The Judaizers thought, "We're godly people because we're circumcised and obey the laws, feasts, ceremonial washings."

Paul is saying, "No. You know that you are mature children of God because you talk to God like your Dad and you love God because He's your Dad. That's how you know that you're mature in your faith. God is your Father." Not by anything that you've done.