

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:29 CSB

Galatians 3:7-18 – LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT COMMANDMENTS WE'RE TO LIVE UNDER

For the rest of the chapter Paul goes into a detailed explanation of the purpose for the law and the gift of grace in our lives. He differentiates the Abrahamic covenant and the Mosaic covenant. The Abrahamic

covenant is all about faith being God's requirement for righteousness (justification before God by faith). The Mosaic covenant was about law-keeping. These were the laws (the Levitical laws) that made us conscious of our sin and our shortcomings. It was the Mosaic covenant with its requisite laws that were replaced by the "new covenant in His blood."

SONS OF ABRAHAM BY FAITH

⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Galatians 3:7-9, NIV).

Paul argues that it is foolish take hold of the law or any other thing in being saved. Paul is saying that believers in Jesus are inheritors of God's covenant with Abraham. Remember that covenants are promises. They were promises made between two parties. They would make a deal with each other and then solemnize the deal with a strange, bloody ritual. They would cut animals in two and BOTH walk between them. The parties to the covenant were in effect saying "may the parties that break these promises be slaughtered like these animals."

When God made His promises to Abraham, something very different happened. God was the only participant. All that Abraham was required to do to benefit from that covenant was to believe. You can read it all in Genesis 15.

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:5-6, NIV).

Then we read the part about the covenant being made.

¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but

Abram drove them away.¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. (At this point God made certain promises to Abram.)

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram..” (Genesis 15:10-12, 17-18, NIV).

Note: Abraham was asleep. My father, who was a doctor and a Hebrew scholar, used to say: “God put Abraham under anesthesia. And Abraham, while in his dream sleep, watched God making His promises.”

When God took Abraham out of the tent that night and showed him the sky, He made promises to Abraham. The text tells us that Abraham believed Him (God) and He (God) accounted it to him (Abraham) as righteousness. “Belief” has always been God’s standard to attain righteousness. Abraham attained right standing before God and we too can attain right standing before God in our belief.

Belief is way more than just mentally agreeing that God exists. To “believe in” means that you trust that God is Who He says that He is, and that He will do what He says He will do. It means that you choose to rely on Him, believe in Him, trust in Him, and to submit to Him.

When these Galatians came to know Jesus they knew it was done by belief, but now the Jews were telling the Gentiles that if they wanted to be saved from their sins, then they had to become Jews first and they had to obey all of the rules and regulations that the Mosaic covenant required.

The Mosaic covenant was conditional. The Abrahamic covenant was unconditional. It is the Mosaic covenant that was replaced by the New Covenant Jesus said was “in His blood.” That is what I often recite to you guys when we take the Lord’s Supper together.

We, as believers, are inheritors of that Abrahamic Covenant. It is ours as well. The Mosaic Covenant was replaced through Jesus. Paul then speaks again about the insufficiency of works.

*¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” [see **Habakkuk 2:2-4**] ¹² The law (**the Mosaic Law**) is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole [Jesus going to the cross].” ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham [belief being credited as righteousness] might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. (Galatians 3:10-14, NIV).*

The law (Mosaic Law) and faith (the Abrahamic covenant) are incompatible. You can't mix the works of the law with the grace of Christ. Paul then gives another example.

¹⁵ *Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case.* ¹⁶ *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.* ¹⁷ *What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise [the Mosaic Covenant doesn't set aside that covenant of faith].* ¹⁸ *For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. (Galatians 3:15-18, NIV).*

So you might at this point be thinking, "Wow, I don't have commandments that I have to live under." Let me read a couple of verses to you.

Ezekiel 36:26

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Jeremiah 31:33

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

What are some of the commandments that we are to obey under the New Covenant?

- 1 Love God with your ALL.** This means you don't love yourself above all else. To love is to give. You give God all of your heart (emotions), soul, and mind (intellect). Jesus told them that this is the COMMANDMENT ABOVE ALL OTHERS IS. ³⁷ *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* ³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹ *And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* (Matt 22:37-40 NKJV)
- 2 Love One Another** – remember in God's terminology, "to love" is "to give". To love others as yourself, you must have a giving heart towards others. You will give of your time, talents, and treasure. I am not saying this is easy. It is in fact difficult. It is hard because we are not programmed to look after the needs of others but after our own

wants and needs. Jesus is saying, “Get outside of yourself. Realize your time on earth is limited and you can give to others beyond what even you yourself realize. Ask God today to help you to begin loving others as you love yourself. This life is not a dress rehearsal. You will never again have the opportunity to give to others when you are gone.

3 Be kind to one another. (*Eph 4:32*) *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.* Being kind is often more difficult than loving someone. The marriages that last are the ones where couples have learned to be kind to one another even when your back aches, you’re tired, and you can’t hear what the other person is saying from the other side of the house. Being kind requires that you forgive your brothers and sisters over and over, and again and again.

4 Follow me. (*Matt 4:19*) *Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.* The key here is that His agenda must become my agenda. This requires a willingness to follow the Holy Spirit’s direction in your life. - Immediately after Jesus makes the statement “If you love me, you will keep my commands,” He says, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever”. (John 14:16, CSB)

5 Repent (Matthew 4:17) Similar to above, this means turning FROM your own way to follow His way.

6 Rejoice (Matthew 5:11–12)

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

7 Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16) – Bring light to the world around you instead of darkness.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

7 Do Not Lust (Matthew 5:28–30) – desire for what’s not yours

8 Keep Your Word (Matthew 5:37). Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

9 Go the Second Mile (Matthew 5:38–42) – means to be really patient with others.

41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

10 Don't lay up treasures on earth. (Matt 6:19-21). *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.* (Matt 6:33) *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.* (Matt 7:12). *And the list goes on and on.* Be heavenly focused. It's the only thing that will last for eternity.

11 Let your heart not be Troubled

Jesus said! "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



As you read this, I want you to rejoice in knowing the Lord Jesus. Rejoice in having the Holy Spirit in your life. Rejoice that you can have total assurance that everything's going to be alright. God is in control. Let not your heart be troubled. Jesus is still on the throne. He is the Alpha and He is the Omega. He is the beginning and the end. Listen to Jesus' words of assurance.

The phrase
"do not be afraid"
is written in the Bible
365 times. That's a daily
reminder from God to live
every day being fearless ♥

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12 Fear not! "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:1-2

Let us pray.

NOTE: THIS WEEK'S SERMON IS UNEDITED AS OUR EDITOR IS CELEBRATING HER ANNIVERSARY

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