

Calvary Chapel of Escondido
Men's Ministry Bible Study
Galatians Study #9 – Children of the
Free Woman



We are no longer under the Law. Paul goes to great lengths in this Book to convince the Jewish believers making the transition from the Law to understand the freedom that they have in Christ. They physically and spiritually had to make that transition. How do we treat the freedom that we have? Do we understand it fully? If we don't understand it, then we certainly don't possess the freedom that comes in Christ. Often when we lack understanding, we drift towards the law and legalism. Then we place that law and legalism not only upon our own shoulders, but also on those around us creating frustrations in our walk and our Christian relationships.

Who would ever desire to be under the law? Many people. There are many advantages to being under the law as your principle of relating to God. First, you always have the outward certainty of a list of rules to keep. Second, you can compliment yourself because you keep the rules better than others do. Finally, you can take the credit for your own salvation, because you earned it by keeping the list of rules. – David Guzik

So there are those who have placed themselves under the Law due to ignorance of the new covenant, and there are those who have purposely placed themselves under the Law for selfish, prideful or even control reasons. Both are dangerous because they minimize the *need* for a Savior and the *sacrifice* of the Savior. As you go through this study, seek the Lord for the true freedom intended for you as a believer, child and heir of God through Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to rescue you from the self-initiated law that you may have created through a lack of understanding of the new covenant.

Supportive Scripture

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." (Matthew 5:17-18)

But if the ministry of death, written [and] engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which [glory] was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation [had] glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away [was] glorious, what remains [is] much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech. (2 Corinthians 3:7-12)

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. (Hebrews 8:6-7)

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son]. (Hebrews 11:17)

Key Verse

So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. (Galatians 4:31)

Memory Verse

Oh, taste and see that the LORD [is] good; Blessed [is] the man [who] trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8)

5. **(v.29-31) The Only Conclusion** - Considering the example given here, what do you feel it was like to be under the old covenant from a day-to-day standpoint? How do you personally experience the freedom of the free woman (or the new covenant)? (verse 31)

Additional Questions for Personal Study

1. How is Hagar symbolic of the Law?
2. Why can't we change our old natures?
3. "Salvation is the beginning, not the ending." What does that mean to you?
4. Why does the old nature love legalism?
5. What is the difference between obeying God's rules (laws) under the control of the Spirit and under the control of legalism?

<i>The "Ishmaels" - Legalism</i>	<i>The "Isaacs" – True Christianity</i>
Slavery and bondage	Freedom
Ishmael: born according to the flesh	Isaac: born by God's promised miracle
Coming from the earthly Jerusalem	Coming from the heavenly Jerusalem
Many children	Many more children
Persecuting	Persecuted
Inheriting nothing	Inheriting everything
Relationship based on law-keeping	Relationship based on trusting God