

“The Gospel’s Goal”—Part 5

OCTOBER 5, 2014

What does it mean to be a child of God?

1. A child of God must BELONG to CHRIST.

- **GALATIANS 3:26-27 (ESV)**

²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **JOHN 1:9-13 (ESV)**

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **ROMANS 8:28-30 (ESV)**

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- **ROMANS 7:4 (ESV)**

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

2. A child of God finds their IDENTITY in Christ.

- **GALATIANS 3:27-28 (ESV)**

²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There 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.

- **MATTHEW 28:18-20 (ESV)**

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-5 (ESV)**

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 (ESV)**

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- **HEBREWS 10:19-23 (ESV)**

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- **ROMANS 13:11-14 (ESV)**

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 (ESV)**

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- **1 PETER 2:9-10 (ESV)**

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3. A child of God is an HEIR according to God's PROMISE.

- **GALATIANS 3:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- **ROMANS 8:12-17 (ESV)**

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- **ROMANS 4:13-25 (ESV)**

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

4. Being an heir and identifying with Christ is not enough...an heir BEARS the MARK of SONSHIP, which is the Holy Spirit.

- **GALATIANS 4:1-7 (ESV)**

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has

sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- **2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22 (ESV)**

²¹And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

- **2 CORINTHIANS 5:5 (ESV)**

⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

- **EPHESIANS 1:11-14 (ESV)**

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- **GALATIANS 5:16-25 (ESV)**

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

- **LUKE 6:43-45 (ESV)**

⁴³"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

5. Being an heir is not enough, in order to receive the FULLNESS of the promise, we must GROW to MATURITY not laying a foundation of our WORKS.

- **GALATIANS 4:8-11 (ESV)**

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years!¹¹ I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

- **HEBREWS 6:1-8 (ESV)**

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.³ And this we will do if God permits.⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15 (ESV)**

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for

*the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.*¹⁴ *If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.*¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

- **EXODUS 20:1-6 (ESV)**

*And God spoke all these words, saying,*² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."*³ *"You shall have no other gods before me."*⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."*⁵ *You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,*⁶ *but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

6. Do not be misled, if our works cannot SAVE us, then our works cannot SUSTAIN us.

- **GALATIANS 4:12-20 (ESV)**

¹² *Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong.*¹³ *You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first,*¹⁴ *and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.*¹⁵ *What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.*¹⁶ *Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?*¹⁷ *They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.*¹⁸ *It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you,*¹⁹ *my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!*²⁰ *I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.*

- **1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9 (ESV)**

⁴ *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,*⁵ *that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—*⁶ *even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—*⁷ *so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,*⁸ *who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*⁹ *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

7. LIVE as children of the promise looking forward to your INHERITANCE in Christ, not as one CAST OUT without HOPE.

- **GALATIANS 4:21-31 (ESV)**

²¹ *Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?*²² *For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman.*²³ *But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.*²⁴ *Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar.*²⁵ *Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.*²⁶ *But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.*²⁷ *For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."*

²⁸ *Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.*²⁹ *But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.*³⁰ *But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman."*³¹ *So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.*

- **HEBREWS 11:1-2, 13-16 (ESV)**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*² *For by it the people of old received their commendation...*

¹³ *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*¹⁴ *For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.*¹⁵ *If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.*¹⁶ *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*