

SUNDAY SERMON

# EARTHLY FATHER & HEAVENLY FATHER

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21 JUNE 2026







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, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles[b] of the world.

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**GALATIANS 4:1-3**



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God

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**GALATIANS 4:4-7**



# THE BARRIER



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, but he is **under guardians** and **managers** until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were **enslaved** to the elementary principles of the world.

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GALATIANS 4:1-3



# 1. NEW LEGAL STANDING

## FROM SERVANT TO HEIR (VV. 4-5)

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.



# 2. NEW INTIMACY

## THE DYNAMIC OF THE EMBRACE (V. 6)

6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”



“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in  
**the discipline and instruction** of the Lord.”

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EPHESIANS 6:4

**Discipline** - correction, boundaries, authority, and consequences.

**Instruction** - the idea of counsel, conversation, guidance, persuasion,  
and reasoning.



# 3. NEW SECURITY

## FROM A SLAVE TO AN HEIR(V. 7)

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



## STRUGGLES OF A SLAVE

### **Pressure to prove myself**

“I must earn my place by labouring tirelessly every day.”

### **The burden of ministry**

“There is just so much for me to do, and I feel like burning out.”

### **Value in my work**

“My self-worth stems from the size of my congregation.”

### **Fear of failure or being judged by others**

“I always wonder whether what I’m doing up

## EXPERIENCE OF A SON

### **Restful security**

“I am part of God’s family, and thus, I do not need to earn my place.”

### **Enjoyment**

“My joy lies in being with my Father and not just working for Him.”

### **Secure in Christ**

“My self-worth stems from who I am in Christ and not what I do or fail to do.”

### **Confidence**

“My worth is not in how people perceive me,