



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Not What We Used to Be

February 5, 2017

Galatians 3:26-4:7

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27).

God blesses all His children without regard to their nationality or race, their finances or station in life, or whether they are male or female; therefore, Christians should not treat some believers better or worse than others. Believers become the children of God the same way: they place their faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized into Christ. Paul wrote that in baptism the believer in Christ is buried with Christ and raised again to new life in Christ (see Romans 6:4). Through baptism, Christians clothe themselves with Christ and become and look like new people. They look and live morally and spiritually in ways that were impossible before they came to faith in Christ. Their words and works reflect more and more the ways Jesus Christ would speak and act in their situations. Prior to placing their faith in Jesus Christ, they were slaves of sin and “in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world” (Galatians 4:3). Now, they can think and behave differently because God has sent the Spirit of His Son, Jesus Christ, into their hearts. They can pray to God as their heavenly Father, and they can go to God as little children totally dependent on God for everything. In addition, the Spirit of God within them will help them overcome their temptations and do what Jesus would do as His Spirit lives within them. Christians do not represent Christ perfectly, but they should increasingly conform to the image of Christ in ways that others can notice. By God’s grace, they are not what they used to be.

Thinking Further

1. How does God adopt a child into His family? How can we be adopted into the family of God?
2. What are some of the gifts a child of God will inherit from their heavenly Father?
3. Give some reasons why the inheritance of God’s children cannot come to them from the law?
4. Why is being under the law similar to being a minor child under a guardian or trustee?
5. In these verses, what major blessing or gift does Paul say the Spirit of God will bring to believers when He comes into their hearts? Why is this gift of the Holy Spirit so meaningful and valuable?

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