

Freedom Week 7 – New Identity
Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

- Why is admitting we have a problem often so difficult for us?
- Have you ever longed to be a child again—to be free from work, parenting, responsibility, mortgage payments, bills and taxes? Remember the carefree days, when from morning till night your job was to play?
- In what ways have you experienced an intimate relationship with God as your Father? If this is difficult, why do you think this is?

Read Galatians 3:26-4:7

1. In what ways do even Christians discriminate or value some types of people over others?
2. What do the basic principles of this world depend upon? How is this contrary to the Gospel?
3. In what ways must we abandon the principles we know so well for a new set of principles? How would you explain the new, Gospel-centered principles of living, to someone steeped in the basic principles of this world? (***Ex: It's up to me and what I do verses up to Jesus and what he did.***)
4. Why is it futile to try to pay back something that has already been paid? What analogy can you think of that would relate us to trying to pay back Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins?
5. How should being a son of God affect the way we live day-to-day?
6. Considering our status/identity before God; discuss the following questions Scott posed in his sermon: Why does your sin make you want to hide from God, instead of run to him? Why are you so sensitive to other people's approval or disapproval of you? Why do you still feel like such a failure sometimes? Why are you secretly comparing yourself to other people all the time? Why do you have doubts that plague you?
7. What is the Spirit's function in regard to sonship?
(Read Galatians 4:6-7; see also Romans 8:15-17; Ephes. 1:13-14)?
8. What difference does it make to you that you can approach God as a mature son approaches a loving father?
9. As a child of God, do you behave like a slave or more like an heir?

Pray, thanking God for the new Identity, Inheritance and Intimacy you now have in Him through Jesus.