



## Slavery verses Freedom

### Galatians 4:21-5:1

Sierra Community Church  
March 12th, 2023  
Corbett Robertson

**4.**<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. <sup>23</sup> His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.

<sup>24</sup> These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.

<sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." <sup>31</sup> Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

**5.**<sup>1</sup> It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

*The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Ga 4:21–5:1). (1984).

## Hagar and Sarah

### **Hagar**

slave  
according to the flesh  
present Jerusalem  
persecutor (Ishmael)  
will not inherit

### **Sarah**

free  
through promise  
Jerusalem above  
persecuted (Issac)  
will inherit

## Slavery versus freedom

**Slavery** - If emotion and desires control your decisions, you are not actually free as our culture would argue. According to God's word, that is the behavior of a slave.

These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."  
2 Peter 2:17,19

**Freedom** - True freedom always operates within boundaries. Our freedom is in Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## Live as a child of the promise

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.  
Galatians 5:1

If you want to live in freedom, it doesn't come from doing whatever you want whenever you want. It doesn't come by pretending you have it all together, or by telling God when and how you are going to get his blessings. It comes through humility. It comes by accepting God's grace, (his gift) in Christ. That's how you are adopted into his family and that's how you experience his blessing of true freedom.

In Christ, you are a new creation and a part of God's family. You don't have to go back to the old way of doing things before Jesus. You have a new responsibility, and that responsibility is to live in the Spirit by faith. See chapters 5 & 6 for Paul's description of living by the Spirit.

### Community Group Questions:

1. What stands out to you in Paul's illustration of Hagar and Sarah?
2. Do you agree or disagree with how slave and freedom are defined here? Why?
3. How would you explain the difference between living as a son or daughter in God's family versus those who want to "earn" their way into the family?

