

## 6. No Longer Slaves Galatians 3:15-4:7

### 1. The Law was Inferior - it was only for Children (3:15-25)

- The promise came first & stands (v15-18)
- The law was added to show us our sin (v19)
- The law was given indirectly (v19-20)
- The law couldn't give life (v21)
- The law locked people up (v22-23)
- BUT... the law was a child minder to lead to Christ (v24)

### 2. Christ came to make us full grown Sons (3:26-4:7)

- He brings a new status! (v26-29, 4:7)
- He brings a new freedom! (4:1-5)
- He brings a new intimacy! (4:6)

### Growth Group questions

What is attractive about a religion which is made up of rules and our duties?

What is unattractive about that sort of religion?

#### READ Galatians 3:15-4:7

1. Remember from 3:1-3 - what is happening in the church? And what is Paul seeking to counter? (1:6-7) How has Paul tackled that in 3:1-14 so far?

2. What is Paul's point in v15? Can you think of contemporary examples of covenants? How might that help? Why does Paul make the point about seed (singular) and seeds (plural)? How does this help us to understand our Old Testament in relation to the New?

3. In v19-25 Paul makes several points about

- the purpose of the law
- the limitation of the law

Have a look at the verses and make a note each time he says something which comes under one of these two headings.

4. How would you answer someone who said to you *If God always meant to save those who believe his promise, like Abraham, why did he give the law?*

5. Read through the whole passage again. Notice how many times Paul says *until* or *before* or *the time had fully come*. How does that help you to understand the Law in relation to the Promise God made to Abraham?

7. What revolution has Christ brought about? What difference does faith in Him, rather than obedience to Law, make? What picture does Paul use in v27?

8. How might slaves and children look similar? What did Jesus come to do? How did he do it? What does that now mean for you and me?

9. Look back at 3:26-4:7. What difference Jesus has brought about? How does what Christ has brought compare with the Law? Why might we be tempted to go back to *doing*? Can you think of examples? Why is that so foolish?

10. Why is the whole idea of *duty* so inappropriate for Christians now? What would be a better word to describe how we seek to follow Jesus?