

Pastor Rich Miller

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GALATIANS

"FROM SLAVES TO SIBLINGS"

GALATIANS 4:1-7

I. I used to be a *slave to the world's ways* (vv. 1-3):

What are the world's ways?

- “stoicheia” = *“the basics of life”*
“elementary knowledge”
“necessary data”

What are the basic principles of the world?

- *“It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there.”*
- *“You gotta look out for #1!”*
- *“Only the strong survive.”*
- *“Go along to get along.”*

“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.” ~ JESUS (John 8:34)

❑ BC = slave to sin

❑ AC = struggle with sin (see Romans 7:21-25)

“No man knows how bad he is until he has tried to be good.” ~ C.S. Lewis

“There is an eagle in me that wants to soar, and there is a hippopotamus in me that wants to wallow in the mud.” ~ Carl Sandburg

II. At just the right time, Jesus bought me back (vv. 4-5):

- ❑ The lie (Satan) = *“sin won’t hurt you...”*
- ❑ The Truth (Jesus) = *“sin enslaves you.”*
- ❑ The Solution (God) = *“we are bought back”*

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” ~ God (Genesis 3:15)

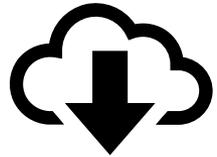
“It was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

III. I have become an *adopted child in a loving relationship with ABBA Father* (vv. 3-6):

□ Adoption = “*a son (or daughter) with legal standing*”

“*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*” (Romans 8:15-16)

TAKE-AWAYS



Q: Do you realize how much God really loves you?

A: *NO!!!!*



“It takes a profound conversion to accept that God is relentlessly tender and compassionate toward us just as we are—not IN SPITE of our sins and faults... but WITH them. Though God does not condone or sanction evil, He does not withhold His love because there is evil in us.”
(Brennan Manning, *Abba’s Child*, p. 20).

TAKE-AWAYS



I'm not Abba's child because...

- ✓ I am good. *I am not!*
- ✓ I deserve it. *I do not!*
- ✓ I obey all the rules in the Bible. *I cannot!*



I'm Abba's child because He has chosen to have a loving relationship with me.

I am invited to call Him "Abba," "Papa," "Daddy"

He doesn't love you because you're perfect, you are perfected IN His love.