

what
God
wants

AS TOLD TO THE
-Galatians-



Yes, No & Maybe

1. I imagine that someone sitting near me has been arrested before.
2. My parents were more strict with me than today's parents are with their kids.
3. I have always been quite mature for my age.
4. I have a guardian angel who helps me determine right from wrong.
5. After Christ's sacrifice, keeping the Law has no effect on your salvation.

Dig Deeper

◦ When you were young, what did your parents do to try to keep you out of trouble? What forms of discipline, supervision or restrictions did they place on you?

› **READ Galatians 3:23-4:7** (NLT)

3:23 Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were **placed under guard** by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. **24** Let me put it another way. The law was our **guardian** until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. **25** And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. **26** For you are all **children** of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. **28** There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And now that you belong to Christ, you are the **true children of Abraham**. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

4:1 Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his **young children**, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. **2** They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. **3** And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. **4** But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent him to **buy freedom** for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. **6** And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." **7** Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

» **23 placed under guard** - [phroureo - φρουρεω] which means "to keep inward under lock and key." The law was a jailer who held in custody those who were subjected to sin, in order that they should not escape the consciousness of their sins and their liability to punishment.

» **24 guardian** - [paidagogos - παιδαγωγός] This word designated a slave employed in Greek and Roman families who had general charge over a boy in the years from about 6-16. He watched over his outward behavior, and took charge over him whenever he went from home, as for instance, to school. This slave was entrusted with the moral supervision of the child.

» **26 children** - [huios - υἱός] This word signifies someone of full age. Under law, the individual was in his minority and under a guardian. Now, under grace, he has attained his majority, having outgrown the surveillance of his former guardian.

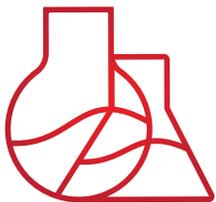
» **29 true children of Abraham** - [sperma - σπέρμα] Typically translated “seed.” The Judaizers taught that by becoming subjects of the Mosaic law, the Galatian Gentiles would become the seed or progeny of Abraham. Paul asserts that this privilege comes to one by faith in Christ.

» **1 young children** - [nepios - νεπίος] Compound word: “one that does not speak.”

» **5 buy freedom** - [exagoraze - ἐξαγοράση] “to buy out of the slave market.”

- After exploring these six words a little deeper, how does this affect your view of what God wants?

« What does it tell you about God that you hadn't thought of before?



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My Prayer...

1. How am I still viewing myself as “immature” in my relationship with God?
2. What does God want me to understand as a “mature heir” today?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?