

THE TRUE SONS

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Galatians 4:1-20

1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. **2** He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. **3** So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, **5** to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. **6** Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. **9** But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! **11** I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. **12** I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. **14** Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

15 What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. **16** Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. **18** It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. **19** My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, **20** how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!
