**Christ Came to Redeem Those under the Law**

**The Word**

Read together Galatians 3:23-4:7

**The Big Idea**

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we no longer have to live a life “under the law” where we seek to earn God’s approval through our obedience to the law. Rather, we can live in the affection and authority that comes from being God’s beloved children through faith.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you considered the image of life under the law from Sunday, what in that felt most relevant to you personally? Did you relate most to the pleaser or the avoider? Or neither?

2. Read Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8:15-17 regarding the role of the Spirit in our lives. Imagine a friend saying to you, “I believe in God and try to follow him, but I’ve never had that inner experience from the Spirit of love and affection that Paul is talking about in those verses.” How would you respond to your friend?

3. On Sunday we talked about the idea of living with the authority that comes from being a child of the king. What do you think that spiritual authority should look like and feel like in daily life?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Life under the law

 A. The law was given as a “guardian” before the coming of God’s son

 1. The law revealed God’s moral will

 2. The law revealed our sin and our need for a savior

 B. Living under the law

1. We view God through the lens of the law, seeing him as a holy Creator who gives us commands to follow.

2. God views us through the law and his posture changes depending on our moral performance

3. “Pleasers” seek to gain God’s approval through ongoing obedience, but what is missing in that is freedom and an enjoyment of God because it’s difficult to fully enjoy someone you’re always trying to please.

4. “Avoiders” intuitively know they can’t perform well enough so they keep their distance from God to avoid failure, but what is missing is intimacy and spiritual authority.

II. Adoption in God’s family through Christ

 A. Christ was born “under the law” (v. 4)

1. Jesus was willingly born under the law, but unlike us, he perfectly obeys and fulfills God’s law at every point.

2. Jesus was born of a woman (= fully human) which allowed him to be the perfect sacrifice for sins that the law demands.

 B. We are redeemed from life under the law through faith in Christ

1. It is our identification with Christ by which we are adopted as God’s children (Gal 3:26-27)

2. God has a “one and only child,” but through faith in that child, Jesus, we all can be children of God

C. This means we have God’s affection as his children (v. 6)

1. “The Spirit of Jesus” by which he knew he was God’s beloved son is living in us, and all the affection Jesus enjoyed from his father is now ours by faith

2. That Spirit cries out “Abba, Father” in our hearts so that we begin to experience God’s love in an intimate and personal way.

 3. Where there was fear and guilt, there is now affection and freedom

D. This means we have authority as God’s children (v. 7)

 1. We are no longer slaves but rather children of the king.

 2. We are heirs of an amazing inheritance (the kingdom of God)

E. Consider images of children living as children in their homes

 1. The freedom to play (see Romans 4:4-5)

2. A boldness that comes from the expectation of favor and generosity from dad (see Ephesians 3:12 and Hebrews 4:16)

 3. Confidence in God’s delight in us as his children (see Psalm 149:4)