

Christian Freedom: Born Free

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Galatians 4:19.

B. Abraham signifies faith. Sarah represents the covenant of grace. Isaac symbolizes the believer. Ishmael stands for the flesh, the old nature. Hagar represents the old covenant--the law.

C. The conflicts that Christians engage in today are the spirit versus the flesh and law versus grace.

II. The spirit versus flesh.

A. The new nature is different in birth.

1. We were born into the old nature.

2. God rejects the first birth. If we have only been born once we are sinners and will die in our sins.

3. The second birth preserves us from the second death.

B. The new nature behaves differently.

1. The new nature brings joy.

2. The new nature is submissive to the Father.

C. The new nature has a different blessing.

1. The new nature makes us heirs with God.

2. The old nature gives us nothing.

3. The new nature gives us freedom.

4. The new nature gives blessing because it is in fellowship with the Father.

III. The law versus grace.

A. The law was added--it was never intended to be the first wife.

B. The law was a temporary servant to reveal sin.

C. The law does not bring birth, it brings death.

D. The law gives birth to slaves.

E. The law was thrown out.

F. The strength of sin was the law. (1 Corinthians 15)

G. The law was never meant to return to the church.

Application questions;

1. What is "the flesh" and how does it contrast to the spirit.

2. Why is it important to know that the law was a temporary part of God's plan? What function does it serve?

3. How is grace the solution to the problems of the law? Explain.
