

**Introduction:** God's grace provides us with much more than a ticket into heaven. Today and next time, we are going to discover seven radical changes that grace provides every true believer.

I. A New Awareness Of <u>Sin</u> (Ephesians 2:1-2; Romans 7:18-20, 24)

Ephesians 2:1-2 <sup>1</sup> "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

Romans 7:18-20, 24 <sup>18</sup> "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. <sup>20</sup> But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"

- II. A New Status (Romans 5:8,10; Galatians 4:1-7)
  - A. From **Enemy** to **Friend**

Romans 5:8, 10 <sup>8</sup> "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

## B. From Slaves to Sons

Galatians 4:6-7  $^{6}$  "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'  $^{7}$  Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

## Two Metaphors to Describe How We Enter God's Family

- 1. Through a new **birth**
- 2. Through adoption

Galatians 4:1-7 <sup>1</sup> "Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup> So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying 'Aba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

**III.** A New <u>Heart</u> (Ezekiel 36:23,26; Romans 6:5-7)

Ezekiel 36:23, 26 <sup>23</sup> "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,' declares the LORD GOD, 'when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.' <sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Galatians 5:17, 19-21 <sup>17</sup> "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. <sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 7:21-24 <sup>21</sup> "I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. <sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. <sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (New Living Translation)

Romans 6:5-7 <sup>5</sup> "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin."

## Three Phrases to Explain Our Relationship to Sin

1. "Not <u>able</u> not to sin." (Romans 5:12)

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

**2.** "Able not to <u>sin</u>." (Romans 6:6-7)

Romans 6:6-7 <sup>6</sup> "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin."

**3.** "Not <u>able</u> to sin." (Romans 7:24-25)

Romans 7:24-25 <sup>24</sup> "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin."

Conclusion