

LEGALISM IS NOT LEGAL

Daddy Or Duty

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. (NIV)

1. A slave is driven by duty. A son is driven by devotion.

Galatians 4:8-10 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! (NIV)

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. (NIV)

1 John 5:2 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome (NIV)

2. A slave is poor. A son is rich.

Galatians 4:4-7 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. (NIV)

Galatians 3:29 And now that we are Christ's we are the true descendants of Abraham, and all of God's promises to him belong to us. (TLB)

Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (NIV)

3. A slave brings division. A son brings unity

Galatians 4:17-18 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. (NIV)

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Ephesians 4:2-6 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (NIV)

4. A slave has a master. A son has a father.

Galatians 4:6-7 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. (NIV)

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (NIV)

Luke 15:25-32 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’” (NIV)

CG Questions

1. Why do some Christ followers live as a slave instead of as a son?
2. What is the difference between living for God out of duty instead of devotion?
3. Why is the slave poor and the son rich?
4. Why do slaves divide rather than bring unity?
5. How does it affect our relationship with God if we view Him as our master rather than our father?