

All sons of God

Ponder: The inclusiveness of the gospel

Scripture: “For in Christ Jesus you all are sons of God, through faith” (Galatians 3:26, ESV).

What could be more important than fellowship with God? Our primary purpose ought to be establishing and maintaining that relationship. Galatians 3:26, 27, provides valuable insight. Let’s analyze that text by using the questions a newspaper reporter would ask: Who, what, how, where, and when. We’ll begin with “who?”

Who? “For you are all sons of God . . .” (3:26). The Judaizers in Galatia and elsewhere would have restricted any favorable relationship with God to Jews and proselytes (Gentiles who had converted to Judaism). They taught that salvation depended on submitting to circumcision and Mosaic Law-keeping (Acts 15:1).

Paul, however, affirmed that all of the Galatian Christians (and, by extension, all Christians everywhere) are sons of God, regardless of their ethnicity or their pre-Christian religious background. Some of the Galatians had converted from Judaism to Christ. Most, however, were Gentiles who had come out of Paganism (idol-worship). For those of Jewish extraction, their obligation to observe circumcision, the Sabbath, dietary laws, etc., ended at the cross. They could continue these practices voluntarily if they chose (see Romans 14), but they could not bind them on others. Gentiles were never under the Law of Moses unless they became proselytes, nor did God require them to keep it when they obeyed the gospel. Of course no one living today has ever been under the Law of Moses.

Even today, some erroneously think that their race is superior to others. While the political ramifications of such a warped ideology are bad enough, even worse are the spiritual effects. Whenever one group sets itself up as superior to others, the unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:21) goes out the window and brotherly love fades away.

Let our identity be with Jesus, not with our race or skin color! Let’s really mean it when we sing, “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight.” The health of our relationship with God hinges in large part on our relationship with each other, “for we are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25).

Song: “The Gospel Is For All”

Prayer: Our God and Father, we thank and praise You for loving all of us. Help us to love each other, and to recognize our oneness in Christ regardless of any artificial distinctions sinful people might make. In Jesus’ name, Amen.