

Context

- 1] Paul writes to warn young Christians in Galatia / modern Turkey
- 2] He is fighting a lone battle –save by grace **not** by works/circumcision (2:12)
- 3] His argument:
 - a) You are faithful / children of Abraham – Father of faith (3:14)
 - b) The Law imprisons, faith save (3:23)

Main point *Through Jesus, children of God come of age and are set free from slavery to the Law and made co-owners (?!) of heaven*

Key verse *But when the time had fully come God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law to redeem those under the Law that we might receive the full rights of sons (5)*

You are (– at the moment!) (26-29)

1] All related to Christ / Messiah - in, into, with, in, to Christ (26-29)
Nb Christ Jesus not Jesus Christ (22) = emphasis on Messiah/ promised one

- 2] all share
 - a) sons through faith (26)
nb *Spirit of sonship (Rms 8:16)*

All believers are sons of God through faith in Jesus, the Messiah

- b) baptised / clothed in Christ (27)
Nb 'toga virilis' garment put on by Roman boy when reaches manhood.
Nb common Jewish initiation – baptism, sacrifice, circumcision (Lev 11-15)
Cf the prodigal son's robe (Luke 15:22)

All believers have received (put on) all of Jesus merit / status before God

- c) one in Christ (28)
nb 'all are level at the bottom of the cross'

All believers are the same/one man in/through the work of Jesus as Messiah

- 3] belong to Christ (29) – (in) Abraham's seed
nb Jesus is Abraham seed and promise (3:16, 18)
If part of Jesus then we must be linked to Abraham receiving His promise

You were (4:1-3)

- 1] a minor (1)
- 2] subject to guardian (2)
cf (3:24)
- 3] slave to elemental spirits (3) (RSV, NEB)

cf slaves to those not by nature gods (4:8)

I.e. to Sin, sins, the Devil

*+Prior to Jesus we were helplessly bound by our inability to keep the Law**

How it happened (4:4-7)

1] in His time (4a)

Cf 2, Eccl 3:2ff; Mk 1:15; Jn 7:6, 30)

**God has a time in all things*

*Jesus is humble – he became nothing **

2] Lord sent His Son- under the Law that children might come of age (4b)

Cf born of a woman – righteous? (Job 15:14)

3] Redeem & adopt (5)

Nb Redeem –by death of Jesus (1:3f) curse bearing (3:13)

** Jesus paid our price (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23)* GRACE*

cf Greco/Roman law a childless owner might adopt slave who became heir

We are fully fledged sons –grown up with all rights

4] So – Father gave His Spirit (6)

Cf Abba – Jesus - (Mk 14:36; Jn 17 x6); Us - (Rmns 8:16,17)

It is by the Work of the Spirit we can call (and mean!) that God is father

** God gives us His Spirit to us as sons**

5] Therefore not a slave but a son and heir (7)

Cf 'Everything I have is yours' (Luke 15:31)

Heir - of righteousness (Heb 11:7)

God has made us an heir Because we are sons (not slaves)

God sent His Son that we might have the status of son-ship and His Spirit that we might have the experience of son-ship (John Stott)

Conclusion

Know that all who have faith in Jesus are sons and heirs, co owners of heaven?!

All are equal / equally in need of God.

2) How do you resolve issues that surprised or confused you?

Heirs according to the promise of descendants, a land for the Jews, blessing for the nations , righteousness before God – fulfilled in Jesus.

3) Give an overall 'picture' of the passage in a few sentences.

Though your faith in Jesus you are Sons of God (26), sharing Jesus righteousness (27), equal before Him (28), co-owners of Heaven (29).

As a child you have no rights and are subject to guardians so in this world you are ruled by elemental powers.(1-3) However through Jesus work you've 'come of age', received His Spirit and come into your inheritance (4-7).