

## Finally Free

**Before Christ, we were all trapped in this world's way of thinking.** Gal. 4: 1-3

Paul compares us to children under a guardian, or slaves, in this way...

1. We were under guardians and managers, not acting in [freedom](#) with responsibility as mature adults.
2. We were held in [bondage](#) under the elemental things of the world.
3. The point is that we were not free. We were entrapped, enslaved, controlled, guided by the elemental things of [this world](#).

**What does Paul mean by “elemental things of the world”?**

- Opt. 1 Paul might mean Judaism, the Mosaic Law, but this is not likely because he would not describe God's Law as “of the world”.
- Opt. 2 Paul may mean the basic religious experience of all peoples whether Jews under the Law or Gentiles in bondage to heathen religions (Col. 2:20)
- Opt. 3 Paul must mean this world's thinking, this world's [ways](#), this world's approach to life, including religion.

**Jesus came to set us free to the freedoms and responsibilities of being God's children.** Gal. 4:4-7

Since Jesus came, we can now be God's adopted sons and legal heirs.

1. God the Father sent Jesus the Son...
  - A. to [redeem](#) us, to buy us out of slavery to this world's thinking, this world's ways, to free us from elemental things of the world.
  - B. so that He might adopt us as sons into His [family](#).

2. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts so now...
  - A. We are relationally His children. We enjoy a close friendship, a familial relationship, with God and call Him “Daddy”.
  - B. We are legally His heirs. We have an [inheritance](#) from Him, namely heaven and the eternal state.
  - C. We are functionally free from what used to enslave us, and functionally free to live in relationship with the One who paid the price for our freedom.

## Message

**Jesus frees you from this world's ways to His ways.**

**So what? Now what?**

- Am I locked in this world's ways?
  - Do I handle relational [conflict](#) like God says? What would it look like for me if mercy, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation characterized my relationships? What would it look like in my family? At my workplace? In my church?
  - Do I draw my self-image, self-concept and self-esteem from the things this world values most, like appearance, wealth, position, possessions, status, success, and popularity? Or do I view others and myself through an entirely different lens?
  - Why can't I change the way I speak to people (especially when I'm mad)? And why can't I stop talking about people (gossiping)?
  - The world's way is to love things and use people. Wouldn't it be better to love people and use things? How can I learn to live like that.
- How can I cultivate a [humble](#) heart? How can I get to the place where I even want to? (Phil 2:3)
- What if I were [generous](#) with my material blessings and wealth? The world's way is to hoard, but there's got to be a better way.
- What if I live a sexually [pure](#) life? Is there a way to not use others? Is there a way to not feel used by others?
- What if I knew what my [purpose](#) was? What if I knew what the [meaning](#) of my life was? And what if I understood how to live a [significant](#) life?