

## “The Law vs. The Promise” Part 2

### Christian Liberty

Galatians 3:23-29

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### I. Parsing the Scriptural Argument (23-29)

A. Preparatory work of ‘law’ (23-25) – law had negative, but necessarily formative, work

1. *‘held captive under the law’; ‘imprisoned’ (23)*

2. *‘law was our guardian’ (24)*

3. *‘...under a guardian’ (25)*

B. Position ‘in Christ’ (26-29) – Union with Christ is the central blessing of the promise

1. *‘...you are all sons of God’ (26)*

2. *‘baptized’; ‘have put on Christ’ (27)*

3. *‘you are...heirs’ (29)*

### II. Pulling on the Threads

A. Psychology of *Sola Fide* – *‘justified by faith’ (24); ‘heirs according to promise’ (29)*

Since our salvation and sanctification came by *promise*, we must be vigilant against the ever present lie that it now comes by *performance*. Gospel amnesia plagued Galatia and it plagues us to this day. This is why Luther advised that we “*beat it into [our] heads continually*”<sup>1</sup> lest we forget.

B. Practicing our Baptism (28) – ‘The one and the many’

1. One – *‘you are all one in Christ Jesus’* – at the most basic level, we have an irreducibly common and shared identity as the church of Jesus Christ

2. Many - *‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female’* – The church has an immense diversity that is relativized, not eradicated, in Christ.

Living as baptized Christians means that we will embrace both our *unity* and immense *diversity* as a body. And we will not suppress or privilege one over the other.

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<sup>1</sup> "Here I must take counsel of the gospel. I must hearken to the gospel, which teacheth me, not what I ought to do, (for that is the proper office of the law), but what Jesus Christ the Son of God hath done for me: to wit, that He suffered and died to deliver me from sin and death. The gospel willeth me to receive this, and to believe it. And this is the truth of the gospel. It is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine, wherein the knowledge of all godliness consisteth. Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually. - Martin Luther, St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, 206.