

Let's Talk.....

Galatians 4:21-31

There are only _____ kinds of people in the world, those who are _____ under the law and those who are _____ in Christ. To make his point, Paul basically tells a story to his readers and reminds them with a question: Do you really understand the law? He then returns to the hero of the Judaizers, _____. Paul mentions him _____x in Galatians.

I. Speaking _____

Remember that God promised to make Abraham a _____, even though he had _____. His wife was in her _____. Eventually, she gives Abraham her slave, Hagar, to have a child. She gives birth to _____. Even though Sara and Abraham had revealed a lack of faith, God had not forgotten his promise. Sara conceives and gives birth to _____. While the boys had many similarities, there were differences. Isaac's birth was a supernatural intervention and, while Isaac was born as a free person, since Hagar was a slave, so was Ishmael.

II. Speaking _____

An allegory is story in which specific people, places and events stand for deep _____. The Pilgrim's Progress is an allegorical work by John Bunyan. For many years people have attempted to categorize much of Scripture as allegory, even labeling _____ as such.

When Paul refers to Isaac and Ishmael he is using allegory but not like The Pilgrim's Progress. He is using history to make a spiritual point. In actuality, we are either an _____ or an _____. We either relate to the law (Hagar/Ishmael) or to grace (Sarah/Isaac).

Hagar stands for the Old Covenant, slavery to the law. Keeping that law was required to be blessed. The Old Covenant was a covenant of _____. Consequently, anyone who reduces Christianity to a list of do's and don'ts is a _____ like Ishmael.

Paul infuriated the Judaizers when he related them to Ishmael, rather than to Isaac and Abraham. They prided themselves on being the _____ sons of Abraham. Paul calls them _____.

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Sarah was equated with the New Covenant. She was never a slave so her son, Isaac, was free. The Old Covenant was full of " _____ " but the New Covenant was full of " _____."

Remember, there are only two religions, only two types of people in the world.

III. Speaking _____

Who is your mother today? Sarah or Hagar? Be careful with your response here: Being a child of the new covenant ensures that you'll face persecution. Genuine Christianity is marked by people willing to suffer or even die for their faith.

Those doing the persecuting are part of false religion. Whenever someone claims to be a Christian and begins to persecute minorities, even thinking they are doing it in the name of Jesus, they actually are not behaving as those who have been redeemed.

By the way, if your desire in our culture is to be liked, then you'll _____.

Eventually, Sarah told Abraham to cast out Hagar and Ishmael. In a not so subtle way, Paul was telling the churches to cast out these _____ as well.