

A Freedom Worth Fighting For

Galatians: 4:21-31

The Conflict between two meanings **confuses** us.

- 📖 Galatians 4:21 (NIV) "Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?"
- 📖 Romans 3:31 (NIV) "Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law."
- 📖 Titus 2:11–14 (NIV) "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."
- 📖 Matthew 5:17–19 (NIV) "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

The Conflict between two women **concerns** us.

- 📖 Galatians 4:22–24a (NIV) "For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. ²⁴ These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants."
- 📖 Galatians 4:24b–27 (NIV) "One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

Hagar	Sarah
Ishmael	Isaac
Slave	Free
Birth by Process	Birth by Promise
Old Covenant based on Law	New Convenient based on Grace
Earthly Jerusalem	Heavenly Jerusalem
Judaism	Christianity

The Conflict between two brothers **continues** with us.

- 📖 Galatians 4:28–29 (NIV) "Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now."
- 📖 Genesis 21:11–13 (NIV) "The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."
- 📖 Galatians 4:30–31 (NIV) "But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." ³¹ Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman."

Do you feel the weight of religion? Does it feel like you never measure up? Are you tired? Does your experience with God feel free or confining? In what ways do you feel bullied? Does your past pick on you? We studied some difficult Scripture today; do you feel like you have a grasp on it? What is your main takeaway? Do you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

