

**Redefined in Christ
Galatians 3:23-29**

November 18, 2018 – Pastor Nick Neves

This passage begins by identifying a key event, ‘the coming of faith’, as a critical turning point in history and in the lives of those who have believed.

Faith has come _____ because Jesus has taken on flesh and become the *object* of saving faith.

Faith has come _____ to those who trust Christ, and now walk by faith in Him.

The ‘coming of faith’ has redefined our _____.

Without a redeemer, we lived under the burden of the law. The law acted as a _____ or a prison warden to us. The law contained us in what we may see as both negative and positive ways.

There is a negative, _____ component to this. The law sought to limit what we could do, because what we would naturally choose to do is essentially wicked.

There is a positive, _____ component. Until faith in Christ redefined us, the law worked to protect us from ourselves, as inmates in a prison are often protected from their own self-destructive behavior.

**Chapter 4 will speak in more detail of the disciplinarian role of the law.*

The ‘coming of faith’ has redefined our _____*

*For those who have not put their trust in Jesus, faith has not yet come...

But for those who *have* trusted in Jesus, God has given them the right to be called sons and daughters of God. The core of our identity has changed, because we have been welcomed into God’s eternal family.

Paul argues that this adoption by faith results in a drastic redefinition of who we are. When we trust Christ and are welcomed into God’s family:

- God has given us His paternal _____ (1 John 3:1)
- We have been _____ by our Father (Ephesians 1:4-7)
- We have _____ to draw near to God (Romans 8:14-15)
- We are now surrounded by _____ and _____ of kindred faith. (2 Corinthians 6:18)
- We are entitled to _____, as sons (Hebrews 12:7)
- We anticipate an _____ as heirs of God’s fortune. (Romans 8:16-17)

These many blessings represent great gain for us, but they also remind us that a portion of our old identity prior to Christ dies when we become a part of this new family. This is signified in the dramatic picture of baptism.

Our new identity in Christ is the defining feature of who we are, more important than...

1. _____ Jew vs. Greek
2. _____ Slave vs. Free
3. _____ Male vs. Female

Some of our individuality *necessarily* disappears in this exchange, and what *is* different about each of us is less significant than what we hold in common with our brethren.

What matters most is not your gender, your economic status, your race... what matters is who you _____ to. And if you have placed your faith in the one and only Son of God, you have come to belong to Him.