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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Study of the Bible-80 Galatians 4:1-2, Spiritual Babies

Read Galatians 4:1-7. This section is a further development of 3:23-26, dealing with the superior adulthood position of the grace age over the childhood age of the Mosaic Law dispensation.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,

The term “child” (*νήπιός, nepios*) in the foregoing passage refers to a child who is too young to take up the responsibilities of adulthood. Paul has already pointed out in 3:24-26 that the Old Testament Law served as a tutor, a guardian, for Old Testament believers who essentially lived as children; they had to be told what to do and what is right and what is wrong.

A person who operates under the Mosaic Law before God is no different than a small child who may be heir to an entire estate, but is not mature enough to utilize the legal rights of his inheritance. Paul says that the child, as far as enjoying privileges of inheritance, is like a slave. This means that any Christian who goes back to the Mosaic Law lives like a child and a slave: they are unable to utilize the fantastic spiritual assets that are available for all believers. Under the Law, legalism, and various infantile programs in contemporary Christianity, believers never grow up with regard to the nature of God, and the spiritual life. Like children, they can parrot or *say* right things about Christ, God, and Reality as such, but have no clue as to what it is all about. How sad! Like children, they want to be entertained and live by some legalistic “spiritual” program. A person who thinks like a child cannot help but live like a child: a child in understanding God, reality, and a child who lives in regular fear and anxiety regarding the details of life, including death, the ultimate portal to eternal blessedness for the believer.

Galatians 4:2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

Paul uses two terms here for authority figures over children. The “guardian” had delegated authority over the child, making sure the child did such things as brush his teeth and wash behind his ears. The Mosaic Law was a guardian to teach believers how to conduct themselves.

“Managers” refer to those who ruled the house. They managed the estate until the child was mature enough take possession of it. The manager had authority over the property that the child was to inherit.

Under the Old Testament Law, believers’ lives were dominated by rules and regulations. The Law was incapable of bestowing the full liberty of grace on them. In God’s perfect timing, He appointed a time when all believers were to operate under grace. This was when the Son of God came to this earth, read John 1:16-17. He introduced a whole new way of thinking and living.

There is no excuse for any church age believer to act like a baby with regard to the spiritual life or reality as such. The church age is all about growing up and living like adults, not children who constantly need attention and to be told what to think, believe, and what to do.

Are you a Spiritual Baby?

Read 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 13:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; Heb.

5:11-6:8. You might be a spiritual baby if you

- ✓ Fight with other Christians
- ✓ Need to be the center of attention.
- ✓ Are shallow in your understanding of God, the Scriptures, and Reality as such
- ✓ Are Easily offended
- ✓ Love to gossip
- ✓ Are never satisfied
- ✓ Become jealous over the success of others
- ✓ Are rebellious
- ✓ Are self-centered
- ✓ Are easily bored, needing entertainment
- ✓ Have trouble staying clean (staying in fellowship)
- ✓ Live in carnality more than spirituality

*In 'Ehyeh,
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