

THE GOSPEL



Week 8 Family "From the courtroom to the living room"

Galatians 4.4-6

OPEN

Welcome to our series called **"The Gospel"** (or good news) in which we have been reflecting on a different dimension of its message each week. We began with the individual and corporate dimensions of the Gospel and then spent four weeks learning how to make the Gospel good news in a culture that has effectively "exiled" Christ-followers to the margins of influence. Last week we learnt what it means for the Gospel to be good news for the poor amongst us. Today we wrap up the series by looking at the Gospel as an invitation to move from a guilt-ridden life in a courtroom where God is seen as a stern judge to joyful engagement in the living room with God who is increasingly seen and experienced as a loving Father.

SHARE & RECONNECT

- Growing up in your family of origin, do you recall a strong sense of belonging? What factors contributed to your experience?
- In what ways has your childhood experience of belonging (or not), influenced your life as an adult follower of Jesus?

READING

- Read Galatians 4.4-6
 - v4 says that Jesus came "when the set time had fully come" (NIV) or "when the right time came" (NLT). What made that time when Jesus was born "the right time that had fully come"?
 - These verses state that the purpose of Jesus' coming (Christmas) was more than just our redemption (salvation) but our adoption as sons and daughters by God our Father. Why do you think there has been such an imbalanced emphasis on the former? What have we thereby lost?

REFLECT

- Consider life in a courtroom where God is seen as judge to that in a living room where God is seen and experienced as a loving Father.
 - Where on the spectrum from courtroom to living room would you place your life and experience so far?
 - How and to what extent has this been influenced by your relationship with your earthly father? *Note: In sharing this, you are not disrespecting your father if it was a difficult relationship. He probably did the best he could. But in the safety and confidentiality of the group, telling your story can be healing.*
 - What other relationships with significant authority figures contributed to your answer above?
- Read Hebrews 2.10-12
 - Take time to meditate on the ministry of the resurrected Jesus. Imagine Him standing with you before God and saying these these same things to and about you? What impacts you the most about this and why?
- Looking at the Diagrams 1 and 2 below:
 - which one describes your present "service" to God and why?
 - What will it take to reverse the sequence from counterclockwise (1st diagram) to clockwise (2nd diagram)?
- Looking at diagrams 3 and 4 below:
 - Does your pursuit of holiness seem more like being driven by whips or drawn by cords of love?
 - How might life in the living room affect that?

PRAY

- Pray for a fresh baptism of the Spirit of adoption in your own life (Amplify your prayers by adding a "so that I may....." reason for you request.
- For any group member in whom difficult and painful memories have surfaced (eg: of not belonging, of a driven life of service, or pursuit of holiness.)
- For **Wellspring** church as a whole to keep moving from the courtroom to the living room (*Again flesh out your prayers by imagining specific results of this move*)

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Diagram 1

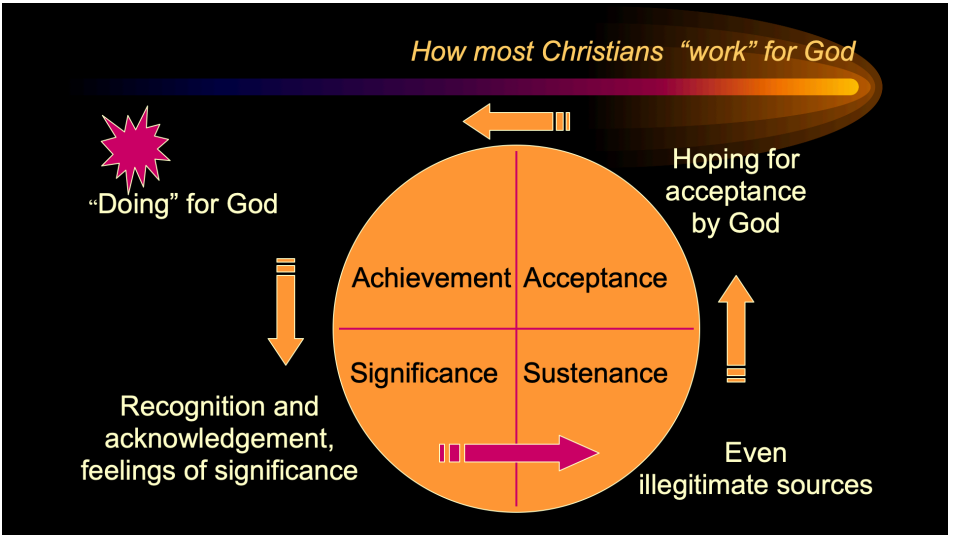


Diagram 2

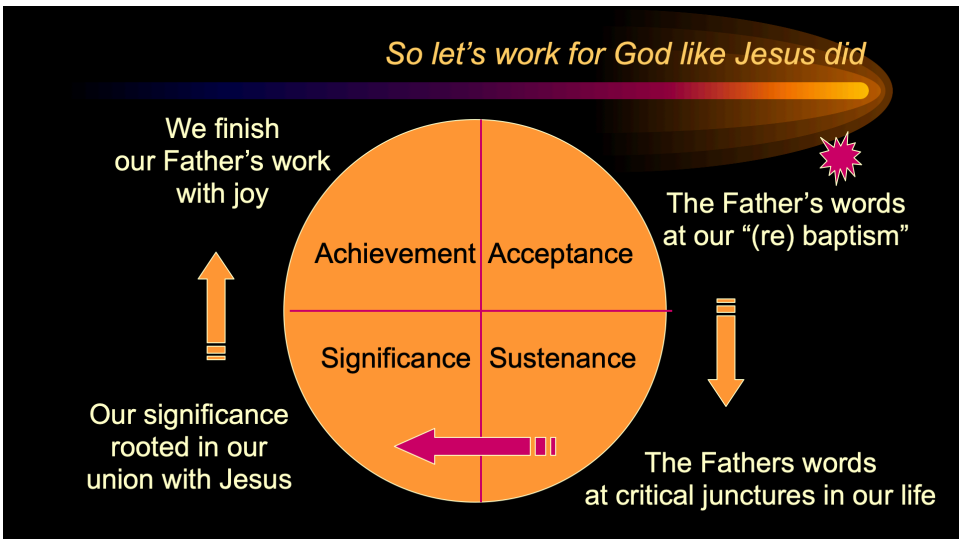


Diagram 3

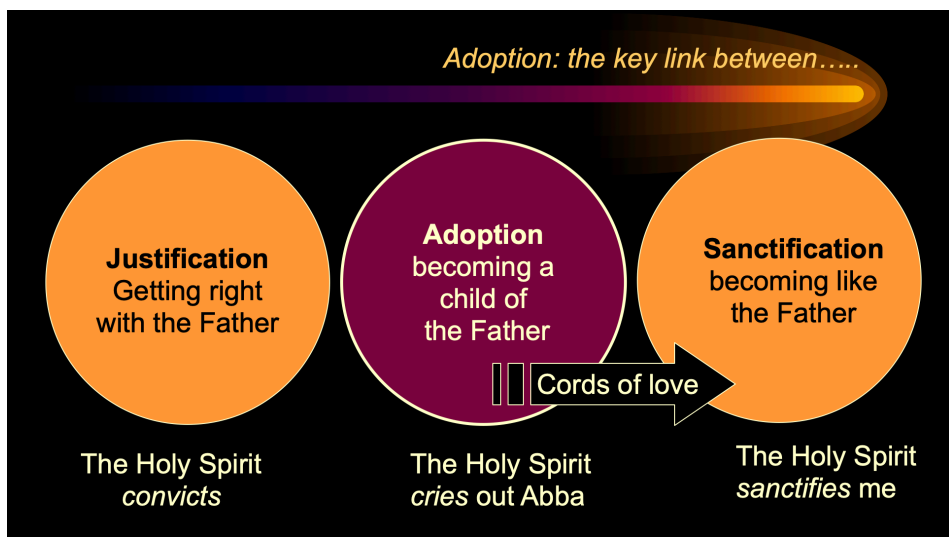


Diagram 4

