



September 24, 2023

Sunday Sermon Study Guide

Pastor Lee Towns, Glocal Outreach Director

Re-tuning: ***Partners More Than Participants***

*4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

*19 Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I’m going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. 20 I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don’t know how else to help you. (Galatians 4:4-7; 19-20 NLT-SE)*

### **A Life Application Study Guide**

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.

#### **LESSONS TO EXPLORE**

1. Belonging to God’s Family
2. Engaged vs. Disengaged
3. Freedom Requires Action

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. If you have ever been part of a team in an academic or business environment, on a sports team or volunteering to move a project along you know the commitment and effort required to function well and see results.
  - a. Describe the qualities of a fully engaged team member. Now describe the behavior and attitude of someone disengaged in an effort that you rate as highly important.
  - b. Lee highlights 3 possible outcomes of disengagement. What are those and how does the enemy use these choices to inhibit our spiritual growth?

- c. We may each have a particular definition of how a family should function. But we likely will agree that family members rely on one another as a unit or team to move through the daily and weekly requirements to create a quality living environment for the family as a whole.

- Describe the characteristics of a mature family member.

2. Paul in Galatians reminds us that we are expected to mature as Christ Followers and that we must live accordingly. The enemy however would like to keep us in bondage.

- a. **How often (if ever) do you think of yourself as a slave?** The reality is that the enemy is clever and will divert our attention toward something that can enslave us before we are aware of what has happened. In our fast-paced Northern Virginia lifestyle this may be easier than we imagine.

- We may have a narrow view and definition of slavery, but we know that it is detestable. However, consider what has diverted your attention away from Christ and now has you on the spiritual sidelines and you find yourself disengaged. **Where do you find yourself unexpectedly disengaged today?**

- Anyone who has ever fought for freedom (in any context) understands the cost required to secure that freedom. Freedom comes at a cost and for us, we see that sacrifice on the cross. If we have chosen to follow Jesus, we have been adopted into God's family. **How have you been tempted to observe or consume rather than engage and serve within the church community?**

3. Adoption into God's family is a partnership in the Kingdom. Paul, throughout his writings references his colleagues as partners. The idea of partnership implies that we are contributors and owners advancing God's plan and agenda in the local church.

- How are you partnering with God to advance His desires and plans for the local church?
- A deep and intimate relationship with God as Father will moves us to serve as an act of love in the local church because this reflects the heart of The Father. **How are you currently investing in the health and vitality of your church home called CFC?**

## **MAKING IT REAL**

This week intentionally engage or re-engage within the CFC community. Remember that:

- Choosing to not engage keep us as observers not beneficiaries.
- Choosing to not engage keeps us as consumers not contributors.
- Choosing to not engage makes us participants not partners.