



Have you ever longed to be a child again—to be free from work, mortgage payments, bills and taxes? Remember the carefree days, when from morning till night your job was to play? The Galatians did. They longed to return to the spiritual childhood of the law. But aren't we forgetting something? Just think of all the things we could not do as children. In [Galatians 4:1-20](#) Paul reminds us of the joys of growing up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read & meditate on [Galatians 4:1-20](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important to you. Why are they important to you?
2. Looking at [verses 3-7](#), how was life under the law like spiritual childhood?
3. [Verse 4](#) states, “⁴ When the time came to completion, God sent His Son...” How did things change because of his coming (read [verses 4-7](#))?
4. In view of Paul's discussion in [verses 1-7](#), how does the Galatians' behavior seem incredible (read [verses 8-11](#))?
5. According to [Galatians 4:12-20](#), how and why had the Galatians' attitude toward Paul changed?
6. What do these verses reveal about Paul's feelings toward the Galatians?
7. How do [verses 12-20](#) illustrate the care and concern we should have for other members of God's family?

MOVING FORWARD

In what ways do you sometimes act like a spiritual slave? How can you begin acting more like God's beloved son or daughter? Spend a few minutes of intimate prayer with the Father, thanking Him for the privileges of being a member of His family and committing yourself to enjoy “growing up.”

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” [Galatians 4:6-7](#)