

Scriptures for Sermon: Life Church Boston

Michael Dixon; Sunday, June 16, 2013

Abundant Life Family Up style

Galatians 4:1-11 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ²The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of the world. ⁴**But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.^[b] ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,^[c] Father."⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.**

Galatians 4:21-27 ²¹Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³**His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.**

²⁴These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written:

"Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."^[a]
²⁸Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.

John 10:9-11 ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 5: 18- 24 ¹⁸For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

¹⁹Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever ^[a]the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. ²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. ²²For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, ²³so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

²⁴"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

1. Christ Came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.
 - a. What does abundant Life look like. The US is an example... Meat is an item that exemplifies Abundance.
 - b. The US has an Infrastructure... The Body has an infrastructure. It is designed for interconnectedness created by individual parts being mature. When systems are not perfect you get the unintended consequence of abundance which lead to many problems, but God's infrastructure is perfect.
 - d. Relationships and interconnectedness is really abundance... Slaves were often slaves because of finances. To be free was to have and be with – not your father, but your Daddy!

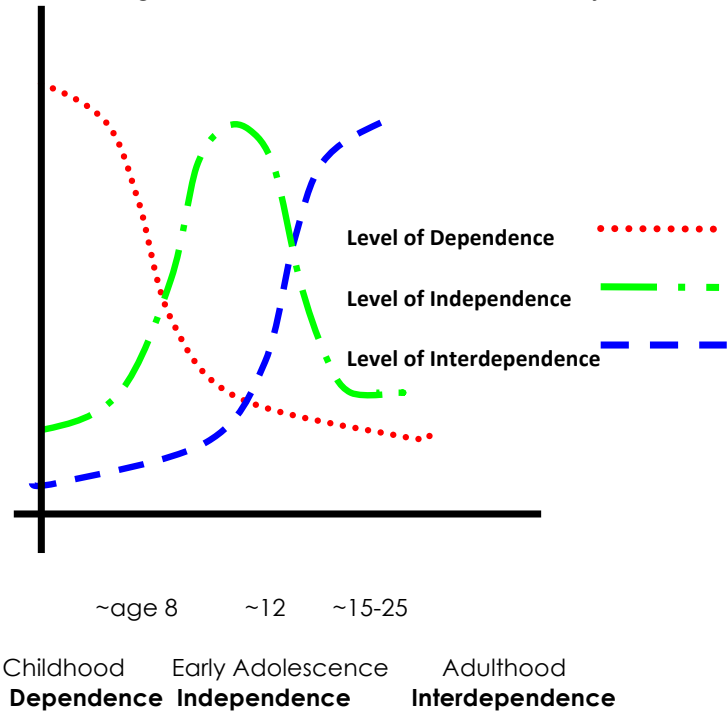
2. Chart for Development...
 - a. How do we mature? (it comes naturally with biology and environment- gravity!)
 - i. Going from Dependence to Independence to Interdependence is healthy. Stopping too early is not.
 - b. What does it mean to be Mature?
 - i. TO be able to have kids
 - ii. To be able to raise kids
 - iii. To choose when and when not to use your Power with those around you...

3. The Role of the Family in Abundant life. We are called to Family Up.... Mirror neurons show how we can be connected Emotionally, even Quantum theory talks about entanglement between people (observers) and their environment.

4. The role of the Father in the Family.

To Love. To Protect the family and their inheritance (land), **To Serve..., To be Fathered**...Miracles Jesus never did a Miracle for himself...I only do what I see my Father doing... **To be what we want others to**

become... The Father sets the tone. If we have a Father situation in our lives that is less than ideal...We can trust God to be the Father we really need, as well as those in the body we can trust.



- Discussion Questions

1. Name one thing you remember about your dad (start with good things though some challenges can be mentioned in a healthy fashion)
2. Name one thing you do because of your Father (or Father Figure- this could be your mom or whoever fit that role)
3. Abundant life... requires eating well and infrastructure...what is the down side of American Abundance? (some examples are obesity, higher levels of cancer, green house gasses, etc.) What are the spiritual equivalents of these things (a possible example biblical laziness)? What ways can God's Fathering overcome those issues?
4. Mirror Neurons help us to smile when we see other smile... How do we make sure we are getting a healthy dose of God's Smiles for us, as well as his healthy correction in love?
5. Jesus said he only did what he saw His father doing... How do we see what God is doing? And what are some ways we see that in our own lives?

Understanding The Bible

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