

Galatians 4:21-31

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Who's your daddy?

- Previously, Paul made the argument that Abraham's offspring are not those who are by *nature* his children, but rather those who are by *faith in Christ* his children (3:7)
- As children of Abraham (*in Christ*)
 - We share His inheritance (3:9,29)
 - We are sons of God (3:26)
 - We have the Holy Spirit in our hearts (4:6)

Key Concepts

JUSTIFICATION

- One-time act
- God's gracious work *for* sinners
- God *declares* the sinner guiltless before Himself
- God *credits* righteousness to our account
- By God's grace, accessed through faith

SANCTIFICATION

- Occurs over ones lifetime
- God's gracious work *in* sinners
- God *transforms* the sinner guiltless before Himself
- God *cultivates* righteousness in our hearts
- By God's grace, accessed through faith

Who's your mama?

HAGAR

- **She was a slave (22)**
- **Ishmael, born by flesh (23)**
- **Covenant of Law (24)**
- ***Earthly Jerusalem (25)***
- **Children are in bondage (25)**
- **Many children (27)**

SARAH

- **She was free (22)**
- **Isaac, born by promise (23)**
- **Covenant of Grace (?)**
- ***Heavenly Jerusalem (26)***
- **Children are free (26)**
- **More Children (27)**

Ishmael persecutes Isaac

■ Possibility #1

- Ishmael's descendants are the Arabs
- Isaac's descendants are the Jews

■ Possibility #2

- Ishmael represents children “born according to the flesh”
- Isaac represent children “born according to the Spirit”

■ Possibility #3

- Ishmael's mother represents the old covenant
- Isaac's mother represents the new covenant

■ Possibility #4

- Ishmael's mother represents bondage through legalism
- Isaac's mother represents freedom through grace

Reflective Questions

- Reflect on your own theology, specifically your understanding of **justification** and **sanctification**
 - In doing so, would you say that Hagar or Sarah is your “mother?” How do you know?
- Paul argues that we, like Isaac, are children of promise. That promise, though, comes with two principles: **persecution** and **inheritance**.
 - How have these principles played out in your own life?