

FOR FREEDOM

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

SERMON NOTES

April 27, 2025
Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett
For Freedom: "Born Identity"

_____ comes with being born again.
[Galatians 3:25-29; John 3:1-6]

Our born identity is the _____ and _____ who live as _____ and _____.
[Galatians 4:1-7]

- We grow in intimacy with the "Father" _____ by spending _____.

Our born identity is shaped by _____ and being _____.
[Galatians 4:8-11; 1 John 2:16; Colossians 2:16-17]

- We tend to turn back to lesser "gods":
 - Desires of the f_____.
 - Desires of the _____.
 - Pride of _____.
- We need to regularly _____ to God and our _____.

Closing text: Luke 15:17-24

Next Step Questions:

- Are you born again and living in your born identity?
- Have you been baptized? www.pathwayvb.com/baptism
- What are you turning back to instead of turning to God and His best for your life?

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LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How is God at work in and around your life?

- **Identity in Christ:**
 - How does proclaiming the name of Jesus clarify our identity, according to Galatians 3:25-29 and John 3:1-6?
 - In what ways does being "born again" shape our understanding of who we are?
- 2. **Freedom and Redemption:**
 - What does it mean to be redeemed and freed as sons and heirs, as described in Galatians 4:1-7?
 - How can we grow in intimacy with God, and how does this relationship influence our identity?
- 3. **Knowing God and Being Known:**
 - How does knowing God and being known by Him shape our "born identity," as discussed in Galatians 4:8-11?
 - Reflect on the story of Keiko the whale. How does this illustrate the struggle between freedom and returning to familiar but lesser "gods"?
- 4. **Turning Back to God:**
 - What are some "lesser gods" or distractions (desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, pride of life) that can pull us away from our identity in Christ, as mentioned in 1 John 2:16?
 - How can we regularly turn back to God and embrace our identity in Him?
- 5. **Practical Application:**
 - Read Luke 15:17-24. How does this story practically show us the love of the Father for those who turn back to Him?
 - What steps can you take to ensure you are living in your "born identity" and not turning back to old patterns or beliefs?
- 6. **Next Steps Questions:**
 - Have you experienced the transformation of being "born again"? If so, how has it impacted your life and identity?
 - What might be holding you back from taking this step in your faith journey if you haven't been baptized?

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April 13 - 19 , 2025

GIVING UPDATE

General Operating

- Weekly Goal: \$40,000
- Weekly Received: \$31,760
- Weekly Over (Under) Goal: (\$8,240)
- Weekly Percentage: 20.6%

- YTD Percentage: 9.9%

Revenue

*Including other income
through February 2025*

- YTD Net: \$54,594
- YTD Percentage: 78.8%

General Operating

- YTD Goal: \$599,487
- YTD Received: \$539,487
- YTD Over (Under) Goal: (\$59,531)

Missions

- YTD Amount: \$67,879
- YTD Percentage of
General Giving: 15.5

CONNECT

Total Worship
Attendance: 1499
Online: 250
In-Person Sun: 857
Kids: 166
Students: 226

GROW

Baptisms (YTD): 25
Discipleship Groups: 194
Salvations (YTD): 131

SERVE

People at Food Pantry: 30
Weekly Volunteers: 113