

**Caleb Stewart: 7/21/20**  
**In Christ's Family**

I have often found myself drawn to the book of Galatians, particularly the third chapter. This relatively short chapter contains so many ideas to wrestle with: faith versus works, the purpose of the Law, and identity, to name a few.

Galatians 3:26-29 stood out to me upon my most recent reading. As someone who grew up in the church and attended a Christian college, I have heard and read these verses more times than I can count. Still, these few verses hold so much power that we seem to forget sometimes:

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

These verses are a beautiful example of unity within the church—the way it ought to be. Too many of us have seen division rear its ugly head and wreak havoc. Christians have clearly struggled with unity from the beginning, even with Paul providing such a clear and simple reference.

In Galatians 3, we are presented with the idea that our primary identity is in Christ. Through Him, we are all united as one. I particularly like how The Message speaks to this idea of unity and equality:

“In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ’s family, then you are Abraham’s famous “descendant,” heirs according to the covenant promises.”

This transliteration brings to focus an important point: although our primary identity is in Christ, we each bring a variety of identities with us. These identities inform our approach to the church and our relationships with one another. Pretending these identities do not exist would do a disservice to the power of diversity with unity.

The strength of this diversity is that even with all of our different identities, we are brought together through one common relationship with Jesus. Through Him, we are all equal, receiving God’s promises equally. No matter who we are, we are all in Christ’s family.