

Galatians 3:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Analysis

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Paul's triumphant conclusion: 'if ye be Christ's' (ei de hymeis Christou, εἰ δὲ ὑμεῖς Χριστοῦ)—the conditional 'if' assumes the reality for believers: 'since you belong to Christ.' The genitive 'Christ's' (Christou, Χριστοῦ) indicates possession: believers are Christ's property, purchased by His blood (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The consequence: 'then are ye Abraham's seed' (ara tou Abraam sperma este, ἄρα τοῦ Αβραὰμ σπέρμα ἔστε). The particle ara (ἄρα) draws the logical inference: therefore, consequently.

Paul's logic: Christ is Abraham's singular Seed (v. 16); believers are 'in Christ' (vv. 26-28); therefore, believers are Abraham's seed by virtue of union with Christ. This is corporate solidarity—what is true of Christ is true of those in Christ. The word 'seed' (sperma, σπέρμα) is collective singular: believers corporately constitute Abraham's seed. The final clause: 'and heirs according to the promise' (kai kat' epangelian klēronomoi, καὶ κατ' ἐπαγγελίαν κληρονόμοι). The preposition 'according to' (kata, κατά) indicates the basis: the promise, not the Law, is the ground of inheritance.

This verse completes the Abraham argument begun in verse 6. Abraham's true seed are not ethnic Jews who keep the Law (the Judaizers' claim), but all who are in Christ by faith—Jew and Gentile alike. The inheritance (righteousness, Spirit, sonship, eternal life) comes by promise-grace through faith in Christ, not by Law-

works. Believers are heirs of the Abrahamic promise fulfilled in Christ, the ultimate Seed.

Historical Context

Jewish theology restricted Abrahamic sonship and inheritance to ethnic descendants and proselytes who became Jews via circumcision. Paul's redefinition is revolutionary: the true 'seed of Abraham' are those who belong to Christ, Abraham's ultimate Seed, through faith—regardless of ethnicity. Romans 4:13-16 and 9:6-8 develop this: not all ethnic Israel is true Israel; the children of the promise are counted as the seed. Galatians 4:28 will state: 'we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.' The church is the true Israel, Abraham's spiritual seed, heirs of the promise.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does belonging to Christ (v. 29) make believers 'Abraham's seed' and heirs of the promise? What does this reveal about corporate solidarity in Christ?
2. What specific promises do you inherit as Abraham's seed through Christ (righteousness, Spirit, sonship, eternal life, the new creation)?
3. How should your identity as 'Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise' transform your confidence in God's faithfulness and your eternal security?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	ὑμεῖς	Χριστοῦ	ἄρα	τοῦ	Ἄβραὰμ	σπέρμα	ἐστέ
if	And	ye	be Christ's	then	G3588	Abraham's	seed	are ye
G1487	G1161	G5210	G5547	G686		G11	G4690	G2075
καὶ	κατ'	ἐπαγγελίαν	κληρονόμοι					
and	according	to the promise	heirs					
G2532	G2596	G1860	G2818					

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:6 (Covenant): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Galatians 3:7 (References Abraham): Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Romans 8:17 (References Christ): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Galatians 4:7 (References Christ): Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Titus 3:7 (Parallel theme): That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Revelation 21:7 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

James 2:5 (Covenant): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

2 Corinthians 10:7 (References Christ): Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

Galatians 3:16 (Covenant): Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

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