

“We” vs. “You” in Galatians

	“We” Israelites	“You” Gentiles
2:14-19	¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face ... “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews? ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus ... ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.”	
3:13	¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”	
3:14		¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.
3:23-25	²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,	
3:26-29		²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.
4:1-5	¹ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.	

4:6-9

⁶ And because **you** are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So **you** are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. ⁸ Formerly, when **you** did not know God, **you** were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that **you** have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can **you** turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves **you** want to be once more?

“‘We’ (3:23) refers to **Jews**. They were ‘under the law’ in that their lives were regulated by it (cf. 1 Cor. 9:20).” (Gerald W. Peterman, *Moody Bible Commentary*, 1835)

“The situation of the minor heir, Paul argues, is analogous to the position of Israel under the law (‘we’ here is no doubt referring to **Jewish Christians**, as it does earlier in Paul’s argument; cf. 2:15–16; 3:13–14, 23–25).” (Robert K. Rapa, *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, 604)