



Did Jewish men thank God for not making them a woman?

Yes, they did! Every day, Jewish men prayed the *Beraka*. *Beraka* means “Blessed.” These were the words:

- Blessed be He who did not make me a Gentile;*
- Blessed be He who did not make me a woman;*
- Blessed be He who did not make me an uneducated man (or a slave).*

- T. Berakhot 7.16-18

Key Term
Beraka
Blessed

The Gospel transforms culture!

Paul understood traditional Jewish prayers. Every day, he knew that Jewish men woke and thanked God that they were not born as women, Gentiles, or slaves. Paul also knew the reality of the Gospel of Jesus, and how Christ can transform everything. In response to the *Beraka* tradition and the active Judaizers, Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26-29:

- ²⁶ *So in Christ Jesus you are all **sons** of God through faith,*
- ²⁷ *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*
- ²⁸ ***There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***
- ²⁹ *If you **belong** to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and **heirs** according to the promise.*

Belonging as permanent heirs

Jewish culture separated and ranked people based on ethnicity, social status, or gender. Clearly being a Jewish, free, male was the top tier. However, Gentiles could become Jews, and slaves could gain their freedom. But women could never become men (not even with modern medicine/technology). The *Beraka* set women in a system of continual discrimination. But Paul’s prophetic reframing of the *Beraka* showed Christ opened the door for *all* to be blessed.

IN CHRIST - SONS, UNITED, BELONG, HEIRS!

“Sons” inherit fully!

Key words in this passage include “sons... belong... heirs... in Christ.” The Greek word in 3:26 is not “children” but “sons” (*υιοι*). This clarification is important because in the cultural context where Paul ministered, only sons received a full inheritance. Paul taught that regardless of a person’s situation at birth or life circumstances, faith in Christ placed believers into the blessed category of “son.” With sonship comes the promise of full inheritance.

What did you inherit in Christ?

Consider, how does spiritual inheritance differ from one Christian to another? Does ethnicity, social status, education, financial level, or gender affect what we inherit in Christ? Scripture says, “NO!” We all receive forgiveness, salvation, the Holy Spirit, access to God, spiritual gifts, and heavenly citizenship.

Conclusion

Paul flipped the Jewish prayer on its head — the *Beraka* was no longer in effect! No longer were free, Jewish males the *only* blessed ones. No longer would a person’s physical or cultural status limit their entry or full participation in the Church. **Now in Christ, all belong, all are sons, all inherit, all are Beraka...blessed!**

4 Crucial Questions
1. What does this teach us about GOD ?
2. What does this teach us about PEOPLE ?
3. What command should I OBEY ?
4. With whom can I SHARE this?