

# Guarding the Gospel of Grace

Preserving Liberty in Christ



# Adoption



# The Book of Galatians

1-2 The Gospel of Grace **Defended**

➔ 3-4 The Gospel of Grace **Explained**

5-6 The Gospel of Grace **Applied**



# Galatians 3:23-4:7



# Galatians 4:1-7

A. **Adoption** as an **Illustration** 1-2

B. **Adoption** as a **Gospel Truth** 3-7



## Galatians 4:1-7

### A. Adoption as an Illustration:

<sup>1</sup> Now I say, *That* the **heir**, as long as **he** is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though **he** be lord of all, <sup>2</sup> but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

**B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth:** <sup>3</sup> Even so **we**, when **we** were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem them that were under the law, that **we** might receive the **adoption** of sons. <sup>6</sup> And because **ye** are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into **your** hearts, crying, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> Wherefore **thou** art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an **heir** of God through Christ.

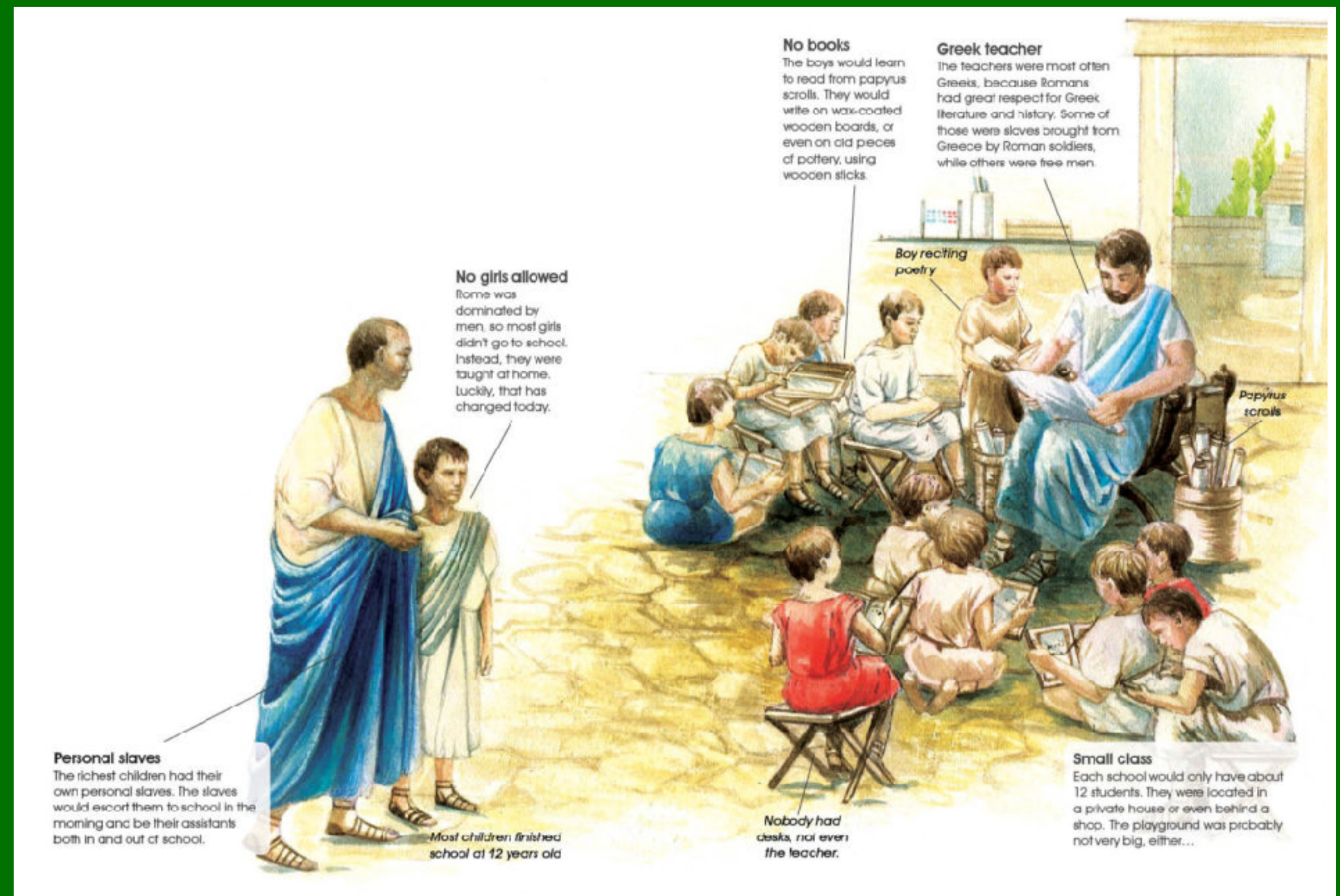
# A. Adoption as an Illustration

- The **minor child** is the same as a **servant**

**MINOR  
CHILD?**

# A. Adoption as an Illustration

- The **minor child** is under **tutors** and **governors**



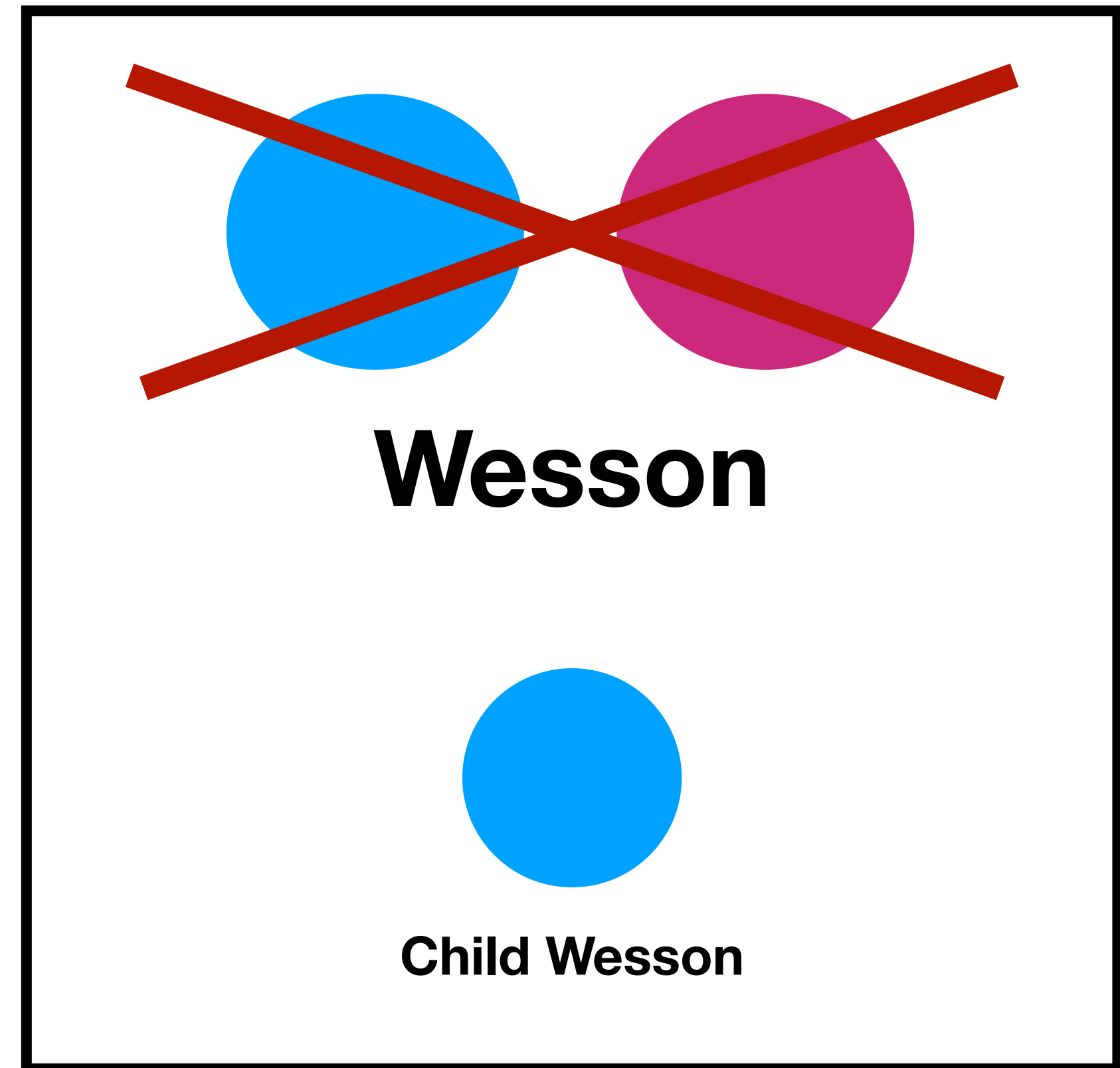
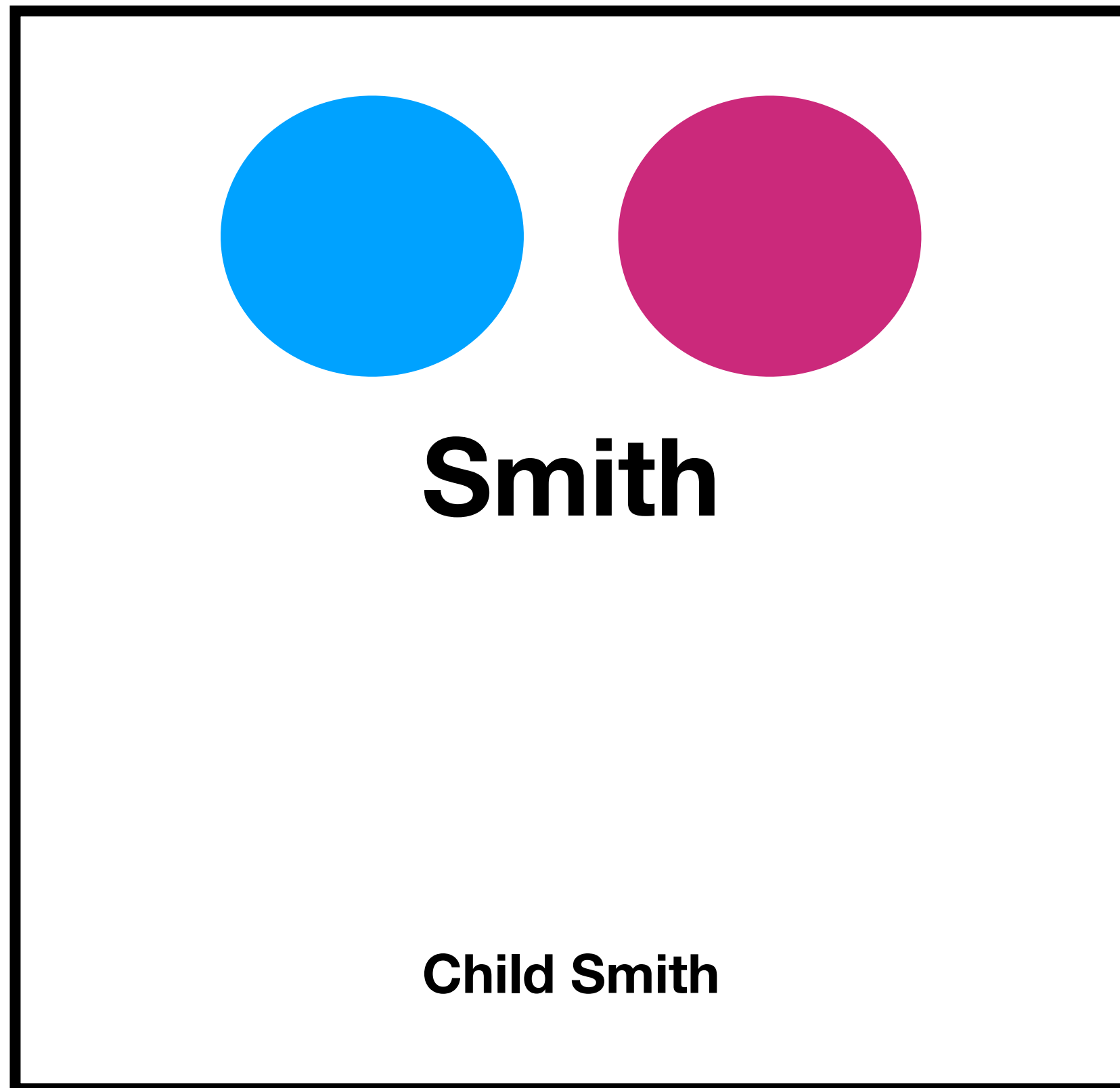


# A. Adoption as an Illustration

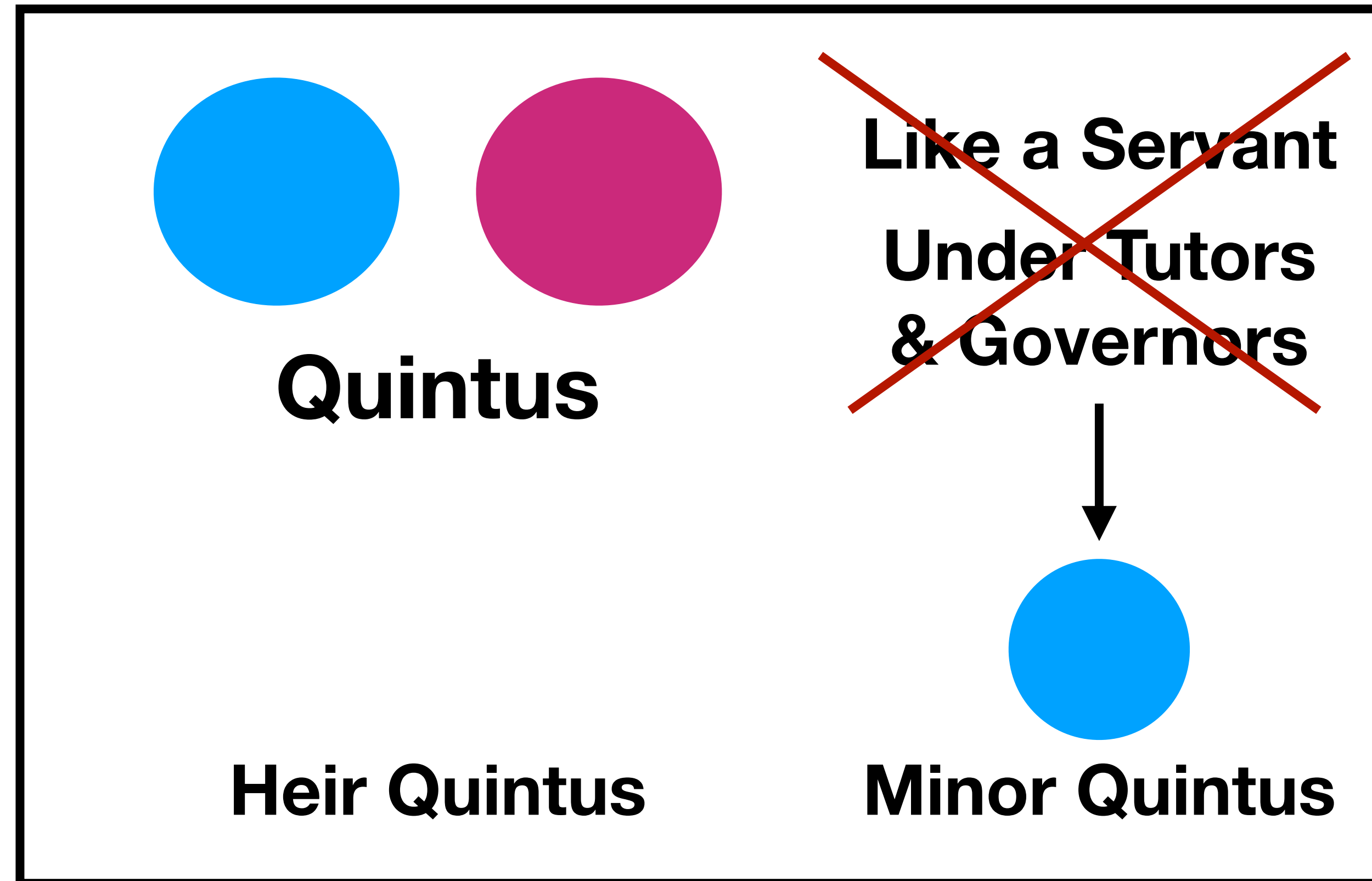
- The **minor child** waits for **timing** by his **father**



# Adoption as we know it



# Adoption in Bible Culture



# The Roman Boy

## The Child

- By birth
- Enters the family
- Under guardians
- No legal rights
- Cannot inherit

## The Son

- By adoption
- Enjoys the family
- Adult liberty
- Full legal rights
- Heir to the Father

# Galatians 4:1-7

A. Adoption as an Illustration 1-2

B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth 3-7

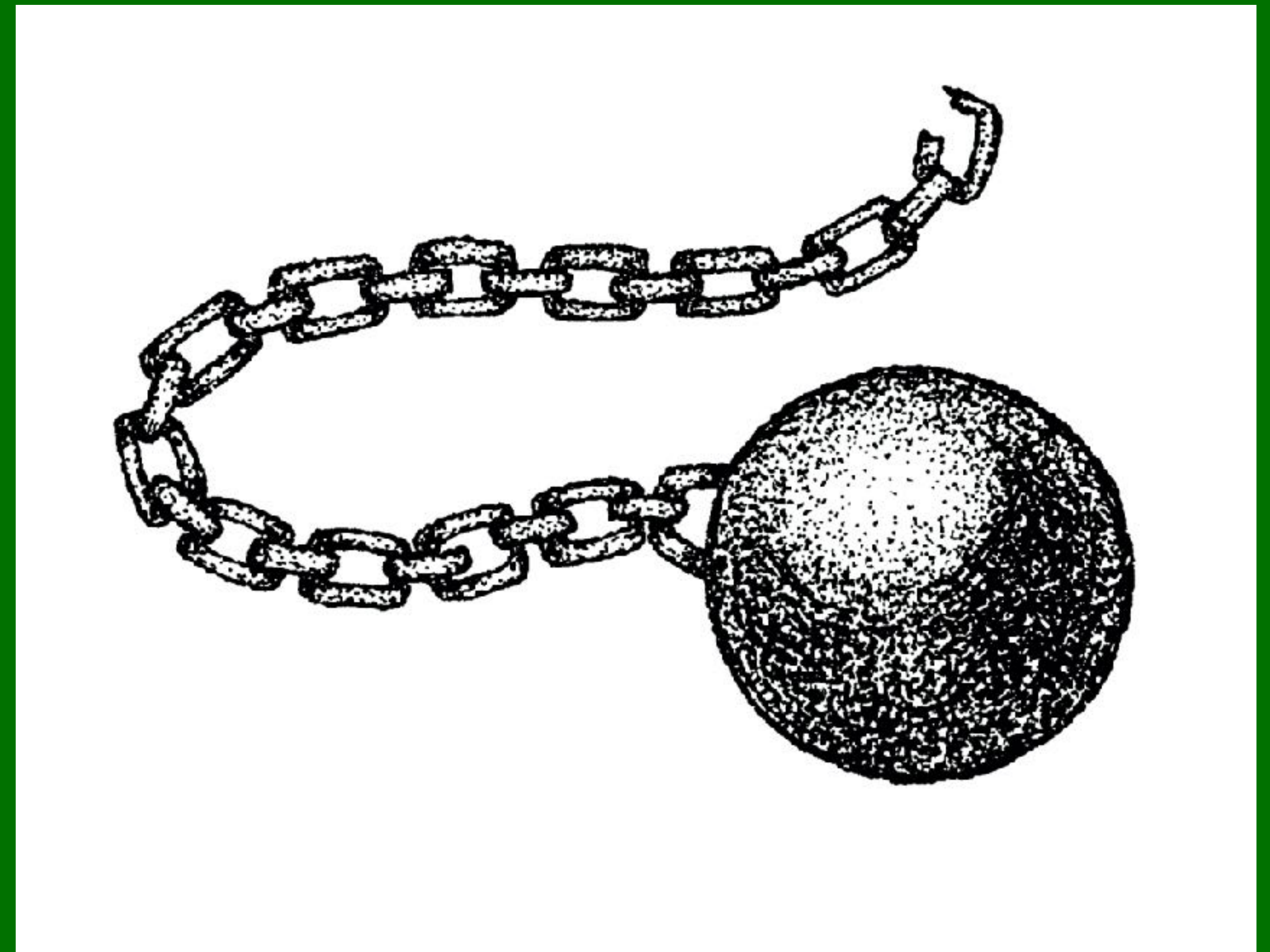


## B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

- The **past event** of the **coming** of **Christ**
- The **present truth** of the **Spirit** of **Christ**

## B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

- The **past event** of the **coming** of **Christ**
  - Living under **law**  
is **bondage**



# B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

- The **past event** of the **coming** of **Christ**
  - When the **timing** was **right**, **God** sent His **Son**
    - **Born** of a **woman**
    - **Born** under the **law**





## B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

- The **past event** of the **coming** of **Christ**
  - When the **timing** was **right**, **God** sent His **Son**
    - To **redeem** those under the **law**
    - To allow us to **receive** the **adoption of sons**

**Adoption**

## B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

- The **present truth** of the **Spirit of Christ**
  - The **Spirit of Christ** is in our hearts
  - The **Spirit of Christ** cries “**Abba, Father**”



**ABBA**  
*Father*

# **The Term “Abba”**

**The Same as Our Word “Daddy” —  
but with reverence**

**Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane  
Mark 14:36**

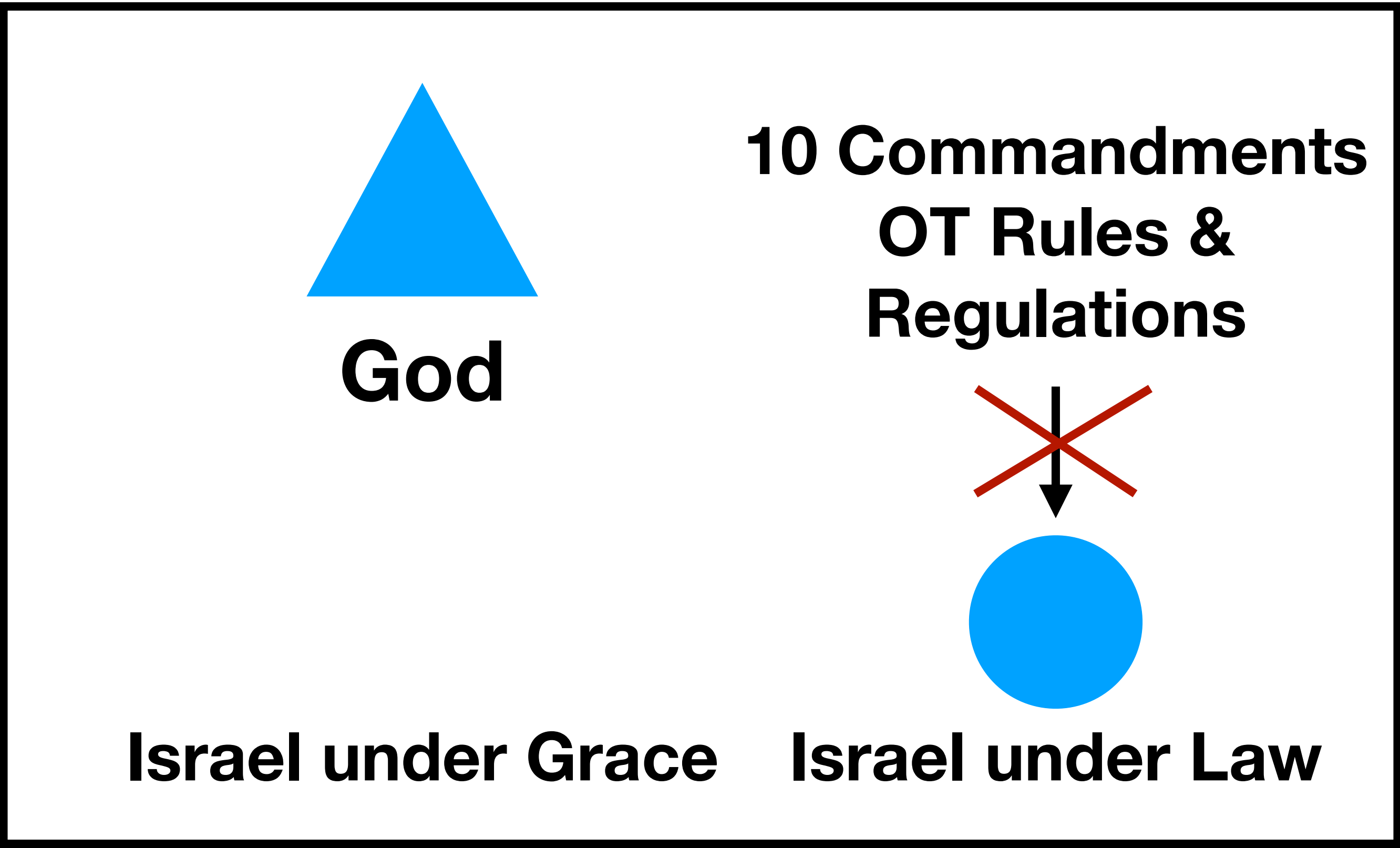
**Christians as fully adopted heirs of God  
Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6**

# B. Adoption as a Gospel Truth

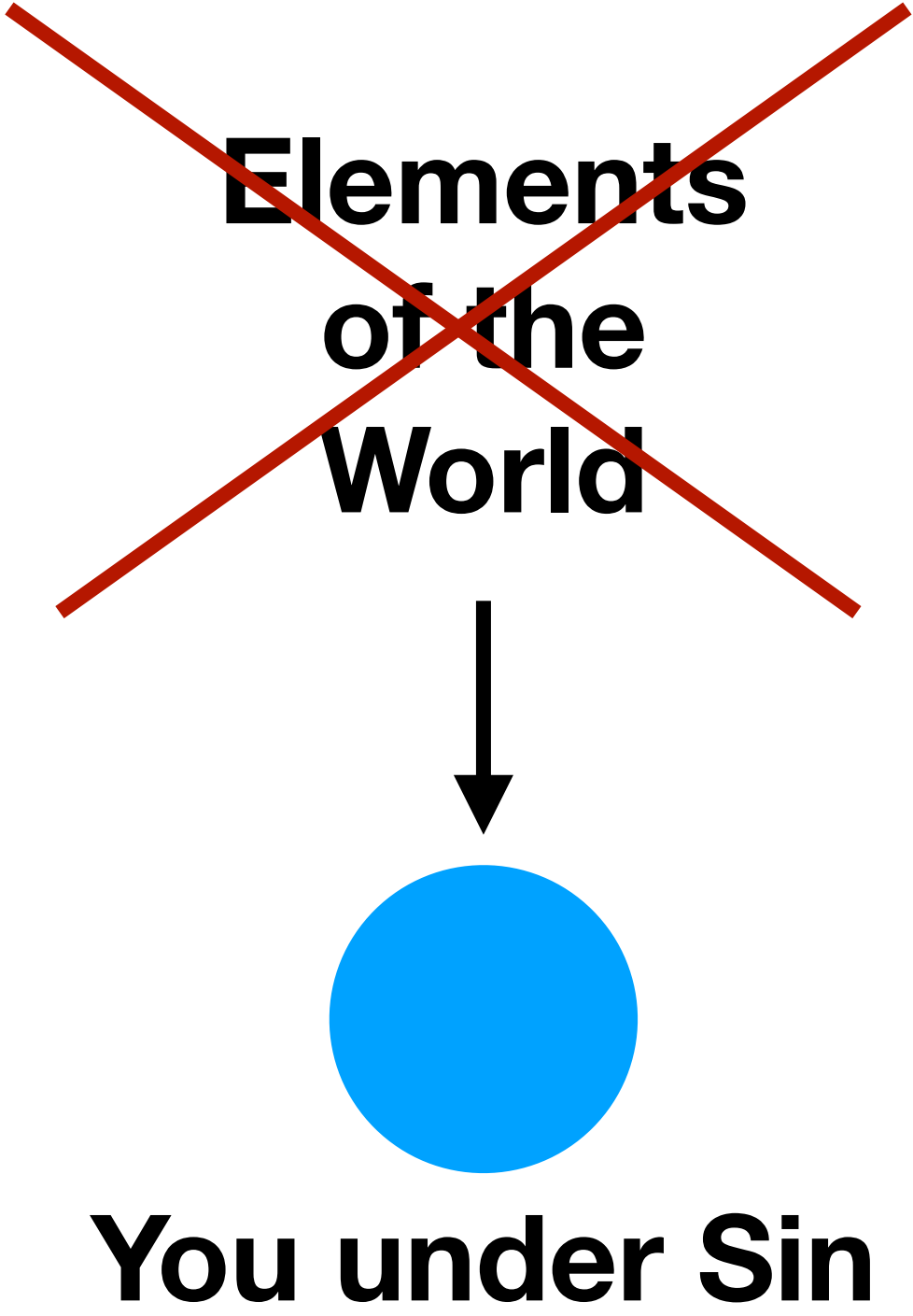
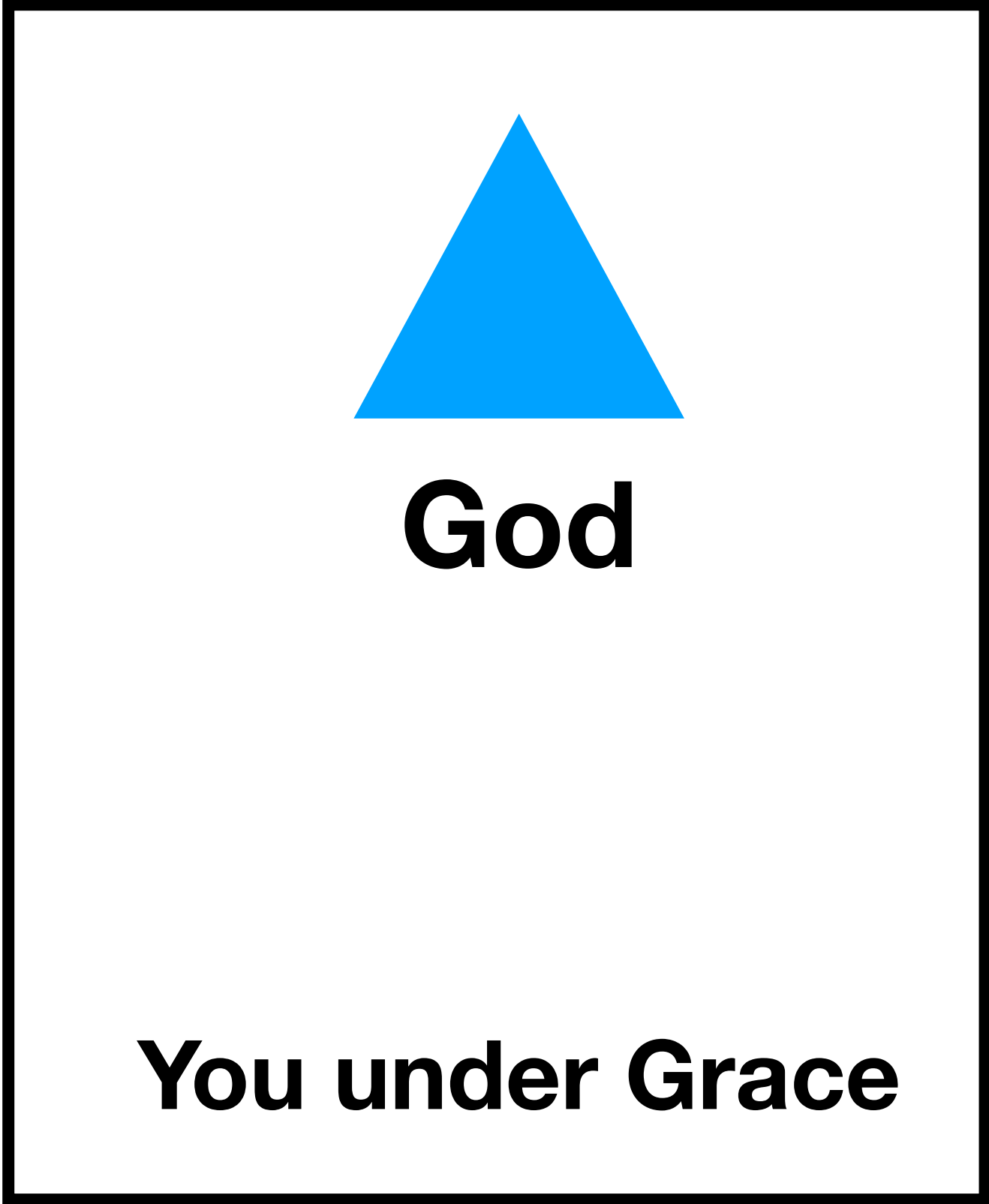
- The **present truth** of the **Spirit of Christ**
  - We are **no longer** like **servants**
  - We are **now** fully-adopted **heirs**



# Adoption as a Bible Illustration



# Adoption as a Christian Experience



# How does all of this **work out?**

- **If you judge your righteousness by works ...**
  - **Then you are motivated by “law”**
  - **You have not fully understood the gospel**
- **If you judge your righteousness by grace ...**
  - **Then you are motivated by relationship**
  - **You have fully appreciated the gospel**

# Hymn #187

## “I’m Adopted”

... that ev - er  
... an tri - um - phant  
... low He liv - oth

... weat - est that ev - er was heard,  
... us, Sang as they welcomed His birth,  
... bor, Tell of the sor - row He bore,  
... ter, Clear - er than ev - er I see;

D. C. for Chorus  
... to earth,  
... bor,

... the like  
... else could