

GALATIANS SESSION 6

Review: Last time we went through chapter 5 where Paul spells out the works of the flesh and contrasts it with the fruit of the Spirit. He then admonishes the Galatians to walk in the Spirit or they will fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The way of law works won't produce the fruit of the Spirit but will cause divisions and strife. Walking with Christ is the only way that the Spirit produces His fruit through us.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. *Just like in other of Paul's writings he begins the epistle with doctrinal teaching, then ends with practical application. The word translated fault in this verse is from the Greek word "paraptoma" which means fall, fault, offence, sin, transgression or trespass and covers faults both unintentional and willful. The Holy Spirit instructs Paul to write that the spiritual in the church be the ones to restore a fellow believer from the error of their way, not the carnal. Here is why...to be spiritual means that you are led and influenced by the Spirit. Carnal people are led by their own senses and emotions meaning that they will handle it in the power of their flesh. The love of God doesn't reside in our flesh nor does it work through our flesh. We are also instructed to approach them in the spirit of meekness. Meekness is strength under control. We also approach them in humility realizing that we're capable of falling too.*

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. *Life has many and varying burdens that can be too heavy to bear alone. Whether they be emotional, spiritual, mental, financial, relational etc. The idea here is of a person spotting another while weight- lifting. When the weight becomes too heavy to lift, others step in to help lift it off their chest. Bearing someone else's burden may take the form of just making time for them to listen to them. It may be that you give to their need financially or practically. It maybe that you carry the burden of intercession for them in prayer until their situation turns around. When we help someone else carry their load we fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:3-5 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. *Any Christian who considers himself above the responsibility of serving others in this way is thinking too highly of himself. He is self-deceived. The Lord Jesus gave us the example of serving others*

by washing his disciple's feet. If He didn't consider service beneath Him, how can we? Though we are called to help others carry their burdens, it does not mean that they are absolved of all responsibilities, and they can shift that completely to others. Feeding others in need is commanded and expected, yet 2 Thessalonians 3:10 say if people aren't willing to work then they shouldn't eat.

Galatians 6:6 *Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Let them that are mature in understanding the word be ready to share with those coming on in teaching others. People had to pour into you for you to grow and mature so pour into those coming up around you.*

Galatians 6:7-9 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. This is the law of sowing and reaping. You can only reap what you sow – if you sow beans, you can't reap corn. God is not mocked meaning that no one gets by with sowing consistently to their flesh but reaps spiritual blessings. The law of sowing and reaping also teaches that there is a space of time between the sowing and the reaping. You don't sow today and reap next week...it takes time. Also, you get back more than what you sow...an ear of corn is more than the seed that was planted. David sowed to the flesh both adultery and murder. God was merciful in sparing his life because he was guilty of death under the law. Nevertheless, David reaped what he sowed and more so. He had one man killed yet four of his sons were destroyed. He took one man's wife, yet his son Absalom set a tent on top of David's house and publicly had marital relations with all his concubines. His son Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar ruining her life and Absalom killed him for it. He reaped more than he sowed. Joshua sowed to the Spirit and reaped the conquest of Canaan. Hannah sowed to the Spirit and reaped Samuel. Samson sowed to the flesh and reaped bondage, blindness and humiliation. Lot sowed to the flesh and reaped Moab and Ammon. Abraham sowed to the Spirit and reaped a friendship with God. Joseph sowed to the Spirit and reaped the most Christlike character of anyone in the Bible. The warning here is to not faint in well-doing because you will reap, it's just a matter of waiting patiently for it.*

Galatians 6:10 *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Therefore, Paul tells the Galatians, let's do good while we have the opportunity. While we wait for the reaping, we are to sow in the Spirit by doing good works that benefit others in God's name...to all people but especially to other Christians.*

Galatians 6:11-15 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. *Paul usually gave dictation to another who wrote down what he said because his eyesight was bad. But this time he wrote it himself, that's why the letters were so large. He wants them to be understand that circumcision means absolutely nothing in Christ and the ones pushing it only do so that they may brag about what they have done in their flesh. Paul says he refuses to glory in anything he has done but he will rejoice in the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ is God's remedy for sin and uncleanness. It's the point in time where the law ends and grace begins. It's the sacrifice that satisfied the wrath and the justice of God and where Christ became the propitiation for our sins. The only thing that counts in Christ is that we are made new creatures, not cutting flesh off the old man.*

Galatians 6:16-18 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Unto the Galatians written from Rome. *As many as walk in a relationship with Christ with a good grasp on grace will experience peace and mercy. The Israel of God he is referring to was not the whole nation of which most were in blindness, but to the remnant that had believed on Christ as their Savior and Messiah. Jacob was his carnal name, and Israel was given to him as his spiritual name. Paul then states that he wants no trouble in the future from people who exalt circumcision because he bears in his body the marks made from whips, rods, and stones for preaching Christ. He gives his signature sign off which is "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit".*