

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 6TH-7TH, 2024 // GALATIANS

SHARING WEIGHT (GALATIANS 6:1-5)

HOW WE ARE TO ADDRESS OTHER'S SINS

Ch. 5 mentions the Fruit of the Spirit, one of those being gentleness. This leads perfectly into his instruction to Christians on how to deal with other Christians who are sinning.

- Paul gives practical advice: **restore others with truth in gentleness, "watching out for [our]selves" so we aren't tempted.**

MORE THAN A ONE-TIME CONVERSATION

When we share the truth with a non-believer or restore a fallen Christian, **we are called to "carry one another's burdens."** This means walking with them in their struggles.

- Doing **this "fulfill[s] the law of Christ."** The law of Christ is the principle of love, and this is displayed in proper relationship.

LOVE NEEDS SOME DEFINING

We live in a culture that has distorted the word love. **True love doesn't condone actions that contradict God's Word because we know that rebellion to God leads to destruction.**

- Jesus said He rebukes and disciplines us because He loves us (Revelation 3:19). **If we love someone, we will share the truth.**

WE MUST ALSO EXAMINE OURSELVES

Paul says we are **not to be people who just find fault in others, but to evaluate our own lives and not compare ourselves to others, thinking we are better than them.**

- There is a healthy pride (v. 4) when we take inventory and see that we are making progress in our spiritual maturity.

WAIT, I THOUGHT THE WEIGHT WAS SHARED

If we are to help carry each other's burdens, why does Paul say, "each person will have to carry [their] own load?"

- Though we're to help others and receive help from others, **at the end of our lives, we must own the choices we've made. Blame-shifting will not work with God.**

GENEROSITY (GALATIANS 6:6-10)

GRACE FREES US TO GIVE

When we are saved by God's generous gift, we should start to mature into people who are also generous. One way Paul calls us to do this is by **giving to the "teacher," which in modern terms means the church.**

- Churches also have a **responsibility to be transparent and faithfully steward** (1 Corinthians 4)!

"FOR WHATEVER A PERSON SOWS..."

We must not be so arrogant as to believe that we can get away with "mocking" God by living in selfishness and evil while claiming salvation and expecting generosity and His blessings.

- V. 8 tells us that **investment into the "flesh" (temporary) will yield temporary things that inevitably fall apart.**

WISE SOWING AND COMMON GRACE

If we sow into the things of God, we reap "eternal life from the Spirit." **Investing in God through prayer, study, and giving, yields eternal things like joy, peace, and fulfillment.**

- There is also common grace (Matthew 5:45) and trials of life that all people experience. These come simply by being human.

"LET US NOT GET TIRED OF DOING GOOD..."

We don't always immediately see the fruit when we sow into the things of God, and that can oftentimes discourage us. In these times, we must seek the wisdom of God's Word and trust in Him because He is faithful.

- God promises **we will "reap at the proper time," but we must not "give up!"**

DOING THE BEST WE CAN (V. 10)

This section wraps up with some practical wisdom when it comes to helping others. First, we are to **help all people "as we have opportunity."** This implies that **we should strive to help but know there are times when we can't.** Secondly, **we are to help those in the "household of faith" first.**

MOTIVE & MISSION (GALATIANS 6:11-18)

CONTRASTING MOTIVES

Paul ends this letter by telling the Galatians that the Judaizers (false teachers) have selfish motives and don't really care about them.

- Paul took the time to personally write that these **false teachers distorted the Word of God because they were afraid of being persecuted by non-believers.**

WHAT ABOUT OUR FEAR OF OTHERS?

Paul points out that the false religious people not only broke the laws they told others to follow, but they also tried to make "good impression[s] in the flesh" to avoid being outcasts.

- **True Christians both avoid and repent of hypocrisy and also understand that following truth comes at a cost.**

DOING RELIGIOUS THINGS IN ORDER TO BRAG

Paul warned the Galatians not to fall into the trap of doing outwardly religious things (in this case circumcision) just to brag.

- Not all religious actions are bad, but **the only things we have the right to boast about are the power, grace, and work of Jesus.**

"THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME"

Paul's motives were strictly to honor God in how he lived and to show others the truth. **In order to honor God and love others properly, the values of the "world" have to be put to death in our lives.**

- When we reach this level of maturity, **the trophies of our culture seem ridiculous.**

THIS STANDARD PRODUCES PEACE AND MERCY

When we live by the standards set by Jesus and His Word, we experience salvation in eternity and peace and mercy in the meantime.

- **We must know that we cannot do anything to save and change ourselves. This is only possible through trusting in Jesus and His ways and principles.**

"I BEAR ON MY BODY THE MARKS OF JESUS"

Paul had literally been scarred because of his dedication to God and telling others about Him. He mentions this not to brag but to show just how much he loves the Galatians.

- **Paul began with grace and ends this letter with grace and the call for people to come to their senses and trust Jesus.**

HOW TO PROPERLY LOVE OTHERS

- Christians are called to love people and help restore them with gentleness, but we cannot properly love others if we are not willing to be truthful with them.
- **True love doesn't condone or turn a blind eye to things that will separate someone from God and lead them to destruction.**
- Though we're to bear each other's burdens, we must also realize that **our actions belong to us, and we will be held accountable.**
- It is impossible for us to be responsible for all people all the time. So, **we are to help others "as we have opportunity," especially those in "the household of faith."**

WE MUST ALSO EXAMINE OURSELVES

- **We cannot point out the faults and sins in others if we haven't addressed the sin in our lives** (Matthew 7).
- We must also ask if we are being **generous**, because Jesus has been generous to us.
- If we will "reap what we sow," **what are we investing in?**

MOTIVE AND OUR STANDARD OF LIVING

- What are our motives for doing the things we do? Is it a desire to grow closer to God and touch the hearts of others? **What if there is a great cost to achieve that mission?**
- **What is the standard by which we live?** Is it biblical? Do we even know? **What will it take to bring us to our senses?**