

Galatians – Freed to be Free

A study of the book of Galatians

Chapter 6 – Life in the Spirit

Galatians 6:1-10

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵for each one should carry his own load. ⁶Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. ⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1. How are believers instructed to deal with sin when one of us is caught in sin? What's the goal?
 - What's Jesus say in **Matthew 18:15**, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over."
2. What other "law" is mentioned in **v. 2**? How does the instruction of **v. 2** carry out this law?
3. Consider what Paul says in **vs. 3-5**.
 - **Agree or Disagree:** Someone else can do everything I can do better than I can do it.
 - **Agree or Disagree:** I can be perfectly happy being me, rejoicing to be me even, because God made me exactly the way he decided to make me and God is good.
 - **Agree or Disagree:** Based on **vs. 4-5**, pride is only good if we don't compare ourselves to others.
4. What is contained in the "all good things" of **v. 6**? What is not?
5. Considering what Paul's said so far about living freedom from the level of your conscience outward and not following the law, what do **vs. 7-8** add to the conversation?
 - How is the adage, "You are what you eat," a fitting one to go along with **v. 8**?

6. Why is it easy to become weary in doing good? How is it really not that hard to prevent one another from becoming weary in doing good?

- How are we to understand **v. 9** properly without expecting it to be an overly simplified recipe for success?
- When shall we do good? To whom shall we do good?

Galatians 6:11-18

See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! ¹² Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. ¹⁷ Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

7. Why does Paul use such large letters when he writes with his own hand?

8. What are two big reasons the false teachers compelled the Galatians to follow the law?

- See what Jesus says in **Matthew 23:15**, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much of a son of hell as you are.”

9. What’s the same about believers and unbelievers?

10. What’s the only boast that’s a good boast to make? If someone asks, “Why boast about that?” what would you say?

- What does this mean about your relationship to worldly things?
- What does count for believers? What blessings follow for those who do what counts?

11. Why is “even the Israel of God” included in **v. 16**?

12. Having read the book and considered more of Paul’s life, what can you say to unpack a very loaded **v.17**? What makes the final sendoff of this letter so fitting?