

The Book of Galatians
Lesson 11 - Galatians 6:1-10
Gospel Living
Keeping on Track

In this final chapter, Paul presents two more contrasts in the Christian life. Keep in mind that he is describing the spiritual life of the believer who lives under grace and not under law. It is a life of liberty, not bondage, and one that is lived in the Spirit, not in the flesh.

There is a law that the believer obeys; it is the law of love in Christ. “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.*” The Spirit of God is the Spirit of love, for God is love. If we are walking in the Spirit, we will not use our liberty in Christ for selfish purposes; we will allow the Spirit to work through us to help others. “Others” is the great Gospel word! Jesus lived for others, and we must follow His example. Being free from the Law does not mean we are independent of one another, for we are members of the same family, and we minister to each other.

Suppose a believer is suddenly caught by the enemy and falls into sin. Should our attitude be one of judgment and condemnation? No! If we are spiritual, we will seek to restore the fallen one. This Greek word for “restore” is a medical term used for the setting of a broken bone. Christians are members of Christ’s body, and a Christian in sin weakens the body.

We are to bear each other’s burdens, but we must also bear our own burdens. There are some burdens that we can share with others, but there are also some that we alone can carry. There must be the spirit of meekness as we seek to help others, not thinking we are better than they. Let God do the judging and the rewarding; He never makes a mistake.

The believer who listens to the Word should share material blessings with those who teach. We often apply these verses to reaping what we sow in terms of sin, and certainly this principle is true. But the basic lesson here is that of giving; “*Sowing to the flesh*” means living for the flesh, investing time and money on things that will not last; “*sowing to the Spirit*” means spending time and money on things eternal. How many Christians use their time and money on things fleshly and they wonder why they never grow in grace or reap spiritual fruits. It takes faith and patience to sow to the Spirit, but God promises the harvest in due season. It takes time to grow a spiritual harvest. We must be faithful sowers in our activities.

Read Galatians 6:1-6 and answer the following questions

1. Explain in your words what 6:1-6 teaches you to do in the following situations:

- a. Someone else in the church is sinning

- b. Someone else is experiencing difficulties

- c. You feel you are doing better than all others in your church

- d. Someone is sacrificing time and income to be your teacher

2. What is the best approach to helping a Christian brother caught in sin? Paul says “*you who are spiritual*” should help. To who does this refer?

3. What is involved in restoring someone “gently”? (Matt. 18:15-17, 2 Cor. 2:6-8)
What dangers should we be aware of?

4. Why is it important to have Christian friends? Wouldn't it be easier to isolate yourself or live as a lone ranger?

5. How does Christ's example show you what it means for you to carry someone else's burden?

6. How are the "burdens" in verse 2 and "load" in verse 5 different?

7. What do you think Paul is saying in verse 6:6? (See 1 Cor. 9:7-14, 1 Tim. 5:17-18).

Read Galatians 6:7-10 and answer the following questions

8. What does the principle "reaping what you sow mean"?

9. Describe at least one situation in your own life where you have seen the principle "reaping what you sow" come true?

10. It's safe to say that everyone desires a good harvest. Why would anyone (including yourself) plant bad seed? (See 6:8-9)

11. What opportunities do you have right now to do good? (See 6:10)

Pay Attention to Temptation

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Gal. 6:7

Paul's warning to "*take heed lest you fall*" (1 Cor. 10:12) is as necessary today as it has ever been. For we, like all that have gone before us are fallen, temptable, and subject to thinking and doing what is wrong. Few teachings of Scripture have more practical implications for day to day living.

Opportunities for temptation are almost endless. And since human nature is not getting any better, nor is any of us immune to the corrupted appetites of the flesh, we need to take Paul's warning seriously and watch out for temptation or we will surely fall. Scripture offers several alternatives for dealing with temptation as we find it.

1. We should avoid temptation whenever possible. Proverbs 4:14-15 urges us, "Do not enter the path of the wicked, do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel in it." Often, we know beforehand whether a certain set of circumstances is likely to lead us to sin. Therefore, the obvious way to avoid is to avoid the circumstances.

2. We should flee from powerful temptations. Earlier in this letter, Paul warned the Corinthians to flee sexual immorality (6:18). The message is clear: Don't toy with temptation. Flee from it!

3. Chronic temptation is something we need to confess and offer to Christ, and ask for His cleaning work. Some temptations are powerful inner struggles, with thoughts and attitudes that graphically remind us of how fallen we really are. What should we do with that type of temptation? Rather than deny it or try to repress it, we should bring it to Christ. He alone is able of cleaning up the insides of our minds.

4. Finally, we must resist temptation until it leaves us. When Christ was tempted by Satan, He resisted until Satan went away (Matt. 4:1:11). James encouraged us to do the same (James 4:7). Resisting begins by us bathing our minds in the Word of God and standing our ground. We have the promise, after all, that the temptation we experience will never go beyond our ability to deal with them (1 Cor. 10:13). That is great news.