

Galatians #20

January 19, 2025

Series: Galatians: Treasuring the Gospel of Grace

Today's Message: More like Jesus: Doing Good! Galatians 6:7-10

I have directed us to consider how our involvement in the restoration of a brother or sister who has been caught or entangled in sin is more like Jesus than if we do nothing. Today, I want us to key in on what Paul has to say at the end of Galatians 6:10 when he says, "Do good to all..." We are more like Jesus when we purposefully set out to do good to everyone. That would include our families, our neighbors, co-workers, but as Paul says, especially those who belong to the household of God. Peter was speaking in Acts 10 about the goodness and mercy of God in Christ. He rounds out his point by saying in 10:38, "...He went around doing good..."

But first, let's quickly review some points from Galatians 6:1-6 that will remind you of the necessity of getting involved in the lives of fellow believers, especially when someone is entangled in a sin.

I) (6:1) Helping the sinning brother or sister.

A) It is something we "should do". But do it gently; kindly; carefully.

II) (6:2-5) Supporting the sinning brother or sister (Or, being willing to be supported and restored).

A) The key idea of 6:2 is offering **long lasting support**, taking as long as it takes to restore that one.

- 1) To get the person back on their feet, functioning faithfully as a member of Christ's body!
 - (a) Patience: The spiritual person should be well aware of the pitfalls that accompany victories.
- 2) "bear". This means to "support with endurance" the heavy load that up till now has been too heavy for the person to carry on their own.
 - (a) Strong temptations are likely going to recur. Help them to build up endurance.
- 3) Equipping: The spiritual brother needs to provide practical helps in order to equip the person.
 - (a) Comradery, fellowship, encouragement, accountability through regular conversations.
 - (i) Prayer is the most powerful and intimate method of "burden bearing."
- 4) "The law of Christ": bearing the burden of a downcast brother fulfills the law of Christ!
 - (a) Nothing demonstrates the law of Christ more than loving the person being restored.

B) (6:3) Paul warns of the most dangerous hinderance to gentle restoration of the injured brother.

- 1) A self-righteous attitude will display itself in harsh judgment and condemnation. "They got themselves into this mess, so they can get themselves out of it!"
- 2) Restoration involves humble involvement and accurate self-assessment. (**read Matt. 7:5**)
 - (a) If you don't consider the plank in your own eye, you will be useless and "self-deceived."
 - (i) In the context of the Galatian troubles, those who had a right view of the Gospel would be of no help in restoring the erring brother if they have a sense of "self-righteousness."

C) (6:4) Paul issues wise counsel in requiring each person to examine his own actions and motives.

- 1) Humility with the recognition that anything good in or about us is from God. We boast in Him!
 - (a) When we know that we are doing somethings pleasing to God do not rejoice in comparison to the brother who is entangled in a sin. Rejoice in the Lord.

D) (6:5) Each one should carry his own load. (a word that is different from "burden" in 6:2)

- 1) In the context of supporting a brother entangled in sin, here in 6:5 Paul is gently reminding us that we too have our own shortcomings. Understanding our own personal shortcomings will help us empathize with the person we are trying to help and support.

III) (6:6) Invest your time and efforts to teach a restored brother (or be willing to be taught to be mature).

- 1) The person supporting the restored brother is, of course, sharing good things. But the person restored is encouraged to reciprocate by sharing good things with the helper.
 - (a) Mutual fellowship. Each person, then, is participating in the sharing of good things.

IV) (6:7-10) The law of sowing and reaping and the necessity of purposefully doing good to all.

- A) In my mind the following verses, Galatians 6:7-10, still fall within the context of supporting the body of Christ, especially those who are entangled in sin. While there is definitely ample reason to apply the “law of sowing and reaping” to ourselves and our own lives, it seems clear to me that Paul is definitely pointing out the danger of non-involvement in the lives of people who are entangled in sinful behavior, especially in the lives of fellow believers.
- 1) Historically the influence of committed Christians on society and culture has provided a ballast which has kept their communities from self-destruction. The involvement of Christians in society has literally changed the moral compass of nations. The Christian influence has shaped the moral conscience of people groups and nations as Christians have been faithful to uphold Biblical teaching, do good and speak Truth among the peoples and nations.
 - 2) Many observers have declared that the nations that were once clearly under the influence of Christian teaching and moral values have abdicated their strong influence by becoming uninvolved and silent. As a result, these once Christian societies, which held firmly to the Bible, have now entered into a post-Christian era. Where this is the case, where the Bible has been set aside, there has been a rapid disintegration of family values. As an example, the family unit which was once comprised of the nuclear family comprised of husband and wife and children and the extended family is now accelerating toward destruction. Additionally, the generations of children are growing into adulthood with no firm set of Biblical values. And this is only one aspect of what has happened in our own post-Christian environment. We could look at other areas that have been affected by our post-Christian society: education, government policies, the sanctity of life, just to name a few. Because everywhere the Bible has been abandoned so too has that society been left to reap a harvest of destruction.
 - 3) So, the following verses stand as a rebuke to western Christianity, but it should also inspire us to recover the primacy of Scripture as our guide to life and Godliness. If we do this we will recover our voice and regain our influence beginning in our homes, our churches our communities. Because if we don't, we will see a tidal wave of destruction come upon us and our civilization will collapse. “God will not be mocked. A man (a society) reaps what he sows.”
- B) (6:7-8a) The Divine Law: “God cannot be mocked. For whatever a man sows, this will he also reap.”
- 1) Paul warns: “Do not be deceived...” The divine law is true for all people in all places. No matter if all seems well, do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. The divine law will be true.
 - 2) Paul puts the law in understandable, physical and universal terms. Every farmer and gardener has knowledge of the absolute truth of this law.
 - 3) (6:8a): It is true spiritually. To a great extent the character of a person is the product of the “seeds” planted in their formative years. The Bible tells us plainly that as “you bring up a child in the way he should go (or as you set the course of his life with the values he receives) he will not turn away from it. A godless generation will produce godlessness.
- C) (6:8b): the positive aspect of the Divine Law: “The person who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”
- 1) This is for the person who has believed on the faithfulness of Christ, who Himself has become righteousness for us through faith in His sacrifice of atonement on behalf of all who believe!
 - (a) To “sow to the Spirit” is the same as to walk in the Spirit (5:16), to be led by the Spirit (5:18) and to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). It means that we are “abiding in Christ.”
- D) (6:9) A great command with a great promise of reward.
- 1) Do not give up doing good. Don't believe that sowing to the Spirit has no reward.
- E) (6:10) The mandate to involve and influence.
- 1) In the lives of fellow believers: restore, encourage, disciple, and share the love of Christ together.
 - 2) And don't forsake involving yourself doing good in the world. Stand on Biblical Truth. We are to rescue the perishing, pray for the dying, and call poor sinners to Christ in whom is eternal Life!