

SERVING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

Galatians 6:1-18

Last chapter of Galatians presents advice to help us understand how people who walk according to the Spirit & not according to legalistic rules ought to act in relationship to our brothers & sisters in Christ.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER 6:1-10

Restoration of the fallen 6:1 *“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.”*

People who truly love God & neighbor, face no moment more difficult than when we have to confront a brother or sister because of failure in their life.

Anyone happy doing it doesn't understand God's love.

God isn't happy doing it!

He grieves over us!

God loved us enough to send His Son because of our sin. If we've received *His* Spirit, how can we help be saddened by failure of someone for whom Christ died.

Through years of ministry, we've been called on many times to cry with brothers or sisters from church, students in seminary, even colleagues in ministry, when they've fallen into sin & God has to discipline them.

Paul had to do that many times.

He counsels us on how *we* should handle that with love & concern for fallen people.

Because of God's holiness & justice, & *His* reputation, we must insist that His people be holy also.

His standards must be applied with love & concern.

In all these instructions Paul demonstrates balance.

We see his love for people that need his help.

Even when restoring a fallen brother, walking in the Spirit is essential to our relationships with others.

People who walk by flesh look out for their interests;
become proud, *tear down* others

People who walk by Spirit, are motivated by love,
seeking restoration of others;

recognizing our own propensity to sin.

We should *help* each other when someone falls

When motivated by love, there's no place for pride in
correcting another.

We must not allow ourselves to take advantage of someone
else's fall for our personal gain.

People who correct another should be people recognized for
spiritual maturity

This isn't a time for someone who considers himself better to
attack & jump all over other people.

If people who try to help are mature spiritually, instead of
attacking,

as someone who's better,

they recognize their own weakness.

They seek restoration of the fallen & do everything they can to
facilitate restoration with the Lord & His church.

Such a person will draw near with a spirit of gentleness.

Right person realizes our weakness, how easy it would be for *us*
to fall into similar situation.

We try to treat fallen people with care & concern, with same love,
with which we want to be treated if we fall.

We recognize our weakness & ability to fall.

We're *tempted* to react with *pride*.

That temptation moves us toward fleshly efforts that produce
ugly fruit mentioned in **5:19-21**.

Proud attitude moves us toward same trap our brother/sister has
fallen into—that we seek to help correct.

**We ought to help fallen brother/sister
 move toward restoration,
 with a spirit of love & gentleness;
 NOT with a judgmental spirit**

Help for the Needy 2-5 *“Carry 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.”*

Principle of love & support applied to fallen, is extended in general way to people who need help & support.

When we help someone who has fallen, we should be careful to apply these standards also.

This looks like a contradiction.

Paul starts:

Each one should bear burdens of others;

he concludes:

Each one should carry his own load.

Paul wants us to *help* one another

Our role isn't like Pharisees, laying burdens on others that no one could carry **Lk. 11:46**

God calls *us* to *help* one another

When people trip & fall, under burden that blocks their way, we should encourage & help them carry load.

=> we fulfill law of Christ summarized in command to love one another **Jn. 13:34-35**

When we help someone carry load, it's easy to think we're better

We can be proud & brag;

we don't have such problems

Instead of bragging over someone's fall,

we ought to examine ourselves.

When we comprehend greatness of God's mercy toward us,
& *our* propensity to fall,
we have no reason to brag.

But for God's grace,
we'd be in *worse* situation.

Thus we should pay attention to carrying our own load.

We have reason to ask for God's mercy ourselves.

We have no basis to attack others,
or brag about what **we** wouldn't do.

It's hard to fall in pride trap, when we consider undeserved grace
of God toward us.

Gratitude to God for His grace protects us from pride.

2nd part of discussion about relationships deals with
obligation to do good to others 6-10

General principle applied specifically to compensation for people
who teach us & provide spiritual benefits

Supporting Teachers 6 *"Anyone who receives instruction in
the word must share all good things with his instructor."*

God's Word frequently repeats this principle:

**When we receive benefit from others,
we should pay them back**

Our Lord taught—Paul repeated:

people who work in a field
ought to eat its fruit.

=> **A worker is worthy of an adequate salary**

Some people think that when you serve God in ministry, you
ought to receive compensation from God alone.

Statement's made: "Thanks, brother. May the Lord repay you!"

[= "We sure aren't going to!"]

This idea doesn't conform to what Scripture says!
It's true: Christ warned followers about danger of serving God for personal gain, or praise of people.

God's workers shouldn't serve Him for profit or praise!

Doesn't relieve *church*, nor individuals, of obligation to express gratitude with encouraging thankfulness & "every good thing"—includes *financial* compensation.

"The worker deserves to receive an adequate salary."

Sowing for Valuable Harvest 7-9 *"Do 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."*

To underline importance of helping those who teach, Paul repeats principle in God's work in general:

WE HARVEST WHAT WE PLANT!

In Gal 5-6 it's 2-sided coin.

Law of harvest indicates people who give should receive back according to what they've given.

People who teach God's Word faithfully should receive just compensation.

Good harvest awaits people who sow for good of others

Other side of coin: directed to people who should *give* compensation to the teacher:

God returns to us in accordance with what we give Him.

**If we give to God sparingly,
we can expect to receive
back sparingly.**

In fields, you can't expect to harvest abundantly unless you plant abundantly!

WE HARVEST WHAT WE PLANT!

General application based on theme of book 8

If we give God fleshly efforts, fruit of flesh, harvest will agree with what we plant.

Carnal seed produces carnal fruit <= 5:19-21

If we plant in accordance with the Spirit, if He controls us & produces His fruit, harvest will agree with God's nature

<= 5:22-23

Therefore, we shouldn't tire of doing good, as the Spirit controls our life.

If we conduct ourselves that way, we'll eventually see harvest which comes from *that* lifestyle 9

Conclusion brings us to broadest sphere: every area—

Exhortation to Good Works 10 *“As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

“Let us do good to all people!

—especially to God’s family!”

—logical implication of ministry of the Spirit in our life.

If we walk under the control of the Spirit, we won't fall into the judaizers' trap, with their legalistic rules.

God's Spirit *will* produce His fruit; so we seek opportunities to do good to all, especially to other believers.

Personal Interest in Others 6:11-18

Spirit-controlled ministry produces concern for others

Flesh-controlled ministry concerned about who gets credit!

People who require them to be circumcised want people to look favorably on them—want to look good

Their motivation is self-centered.

Cross is only valid basis for bragging—NOT what we accomplish!

14-15 *“May I never boast except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, & I to the world. ¹⁵Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.”*

Only what Christ’s work produces is worth bragging about.

Cross produces separation from world.

Cross produces new creation.

Paul desires God’s blessing, peace & mercy, for all who affirm the truth 16

Final exhortation to end this matter & restore fellowship is based on his identification with Christ. 17

Closing blessing 18

He wants us to understand & experience greatness of God’s grace as it’s revealed in Jesus

SUMMARY OF GALATIANS

If saved by faith, we must walk by faith!

1. Personal testimony of God's grace 1-2

2. Theological arguments 3-4

3. Practical implications 5-6

=> Walking by faith ...

*** Doesn't leave us free to do what we feel like**

*** Equips us to walk by control of the Spirit**

To produce fruit He alone can produce=> glorify God.

*** Results in love for God and others.**

Do you see how this **brings the whole biblical concept full circle?**

It brings us back to see that we don’t try to keep a list of rules (the law or others) to become acceptable to God.

But we DO fulfill the summary of the law:

“Love God with all your heart;

love your neighbor as you love yourself!