

Galatians 6:1-10

PRAY

Good morning church. It is so very good to be with you today as we continue our time of worshiping through the Word of God.

If you have a Bible, I invite you to go ahead and open to the book of Galatians. If you use a device, scroll tap, whatever. Galatians 6:1-10 this morning. And as always I will be in the CSB today.

This week in our Bible reading plan, we worked through some of the middle chapters in the book of Acts, the entire book of Galatians, and a couple of chapters in 1 Thessalonians.

If you remember back to our study through the book of Acts as a church, in Acts 15, the church in Jerusalem was at a critical point. They had to seek the Lord and answer the question, “What do we do with the non-Jewish people that have come to faith in Christ?” And their answer would determine (1) if the Gospel really is for all types people, or (2) if Christianity would become just another sect of Judaism by requiring people that come to faith.

Fortunately, they answered correctly – that a non-Jewish brother or sister, that comes to faith in Christ, doesn’t have to become a Jew. Because the Gospel really is for all types of people. And Paul, writing this short and sweet letter to this group of churches in Galatia, Paul would unpack for these churches the truth of **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE**. And, so we’re all on the same page – JUSTIFICATION, or being JUSTIFIED, declares someone completely and totally innocent. Just as IF I’d always obeyed. That their acceptance before God wasn’t based on how good they could be, or the religious rules that they could keep. Instead it was through Faith in Christ ALONE.

They had taken the power out of the Gospel message by adding a bunch of things to it. And hear me, for the last 2,000 years people and churches have presented a powerless Gospel either by (1) adding a bunch of rules to it or (2) watering it down to the point where it makes NO claim on your life.

GOSPEL or gospely? Rather than the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ as the power of God to salvation, they present either a gospely set of rules rooted in earning our justification before God or a gospely version of the American dream that makes absolutely no claim on how you live.

And Paul, now this brother doesn’t mess around. Paul writes the churches of Galatia and says “WATCH OUT”. He writes this letter to warn them about a gospely message that’s creeping in. *Dever* notes that Paul doesn’t write this letter to the elders of the churches. He writes it to the churches, and the people in those churches. Because his expectation is that Christians should be able to tell right from wrong. Or even more importantly, **right from almost right**. A Gospel message from a Gospely message.

And he tells the churches, 1:9B “If anyone is preaching to you a gospel that is contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!” The gospely message was that the false teachers were putting forward was that they needed to become good Jews in order to also be Christians. But Paul says not so fast. And he writes them this letter, laying out the beauty of JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE.

A person is not justified by the work of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified.

Because even the most obedient of us, will never be able to obey completely both in deed and desire.

And the Holy Spirit, uses the pen of the Apostle Paul to unpack for these churches and us today of the reality who we are in Christ, by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone.

- Free to pursue the glory of God in all things, rather than the praise of people
- We are free from being trapped by others' opinions of us, because we have the opinion of the God of the world
- We are free to believe, love and obey Christ rather than be a slave to our own sin
- We are free to really love people, in word and action
 - Free to speak the truth in love to people
 - Free to love people enough to call them out of their sin and point them to Jesus
- We are free to love God as Father, rather than fear Him as a slave
- Free to love each other as family. If you've spent any time at RCM, you've hopefully heard me say a lot about the church as family.

And this is where I want us to land together today...

If we really are justified by faith alone – nothing we can add to it, nothing anyone can take away from it – this position will always impact how we live. And it will impact how we live in meaningful ways.

And Paul really addresses both sides of the Gospels type of messages that we hear, they're both addressed in this letter – first by unpacking the truth of JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE and then unpacking for us the CONSEQUENCES OF THIS TRUTH. **Like how the church should live with each other – as a family – what it looks like to walk in the Spirit (see Galatians 5) as believer Justified by Faith Alone.** These are found in Galatians 6. So if you haven't already turned your device on, or turned your pages over, go to Galatians 6 for me.

READ 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit,^[a] watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. ²Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

⁴Let each person examine his own work, and then he can take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. ⁵For each person will have to carry his own load.

⁶Let the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher. ⁷Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, ⁸because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

⁹Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

So the first consequence we see, of being justified by faith alone, how the church is called to live as a family, is a willingness to correct.

I. Willingness to correct

But we have to see that this isn't just a blanket – go get 'em – kind of mentality. Some people have misunderstood this exhortation thinking we're in a paint ball game, gotta go get 'em, just like playing paintball. The difference though, is that in the church we're all on the same team. At least, if you are a Christian, we're all on the same team. I'm not trying to go get you, like a paint ball fight, I'm trying to correct you.

Qualifiers – (1) you who are spiritual. We should shudder at the weight of correcting a brother or sister. It's not something that's to be done lightly. Its purpose is to restore and build back up, not to tear down. (2) Should be done from a posture of gentleness, and not arrogance. (3) Watching after yourself as well. Reminds me of Paul's words to the church at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 10:12 So whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

Gentleness is an undernoticed but much needed character trait today. There are times when we need a sledge hammer, but there are a lot more times we need to use a trim hammer. Gentleness is a qualification of anyone that would desire to be a pastor or elder. It's also a character of Jesus' own heart for people.

Show me a person that has been deeply moved by the grace of God in the Gospel, that knows down deep in their bones the greatness of the glory of God in Christ. That knows experientially that their justification is by grace through faith alone, in Christ alone – chances are this person out of their understanding of who Jesus is, and who they are in Christ will be willing to correct. With a posture of gentleness and taking care. Paul also says there will be a willingness to carry.

II. Willingness to carry

Re-read V2

We need to see this in the larger context of these verses where Paul, just a few lines later says each person will have to carry his own load. So how do we understand these verses? The picture in V2 is an extra heavy burden – like not just come help me clean the house and take care of dinner because I don't want to – but those extraordinary times when the weight of your circumstances is crushing. Paul says to carry one another's load and fulfill the law of Christ. What Jesus commanded the disciples, and commands you and me today – to love one another.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus says how we love one another – will tell the world that we are Christians. That the church really is family.

And hear me – this is rooted in our position – justification by grace alone through faith alone. I can serve you as a brother, and I can ask for your help as a brother. Because Jesus has united us together, as a family. I'm not concerned with my own welfare and position primarily, I'm concerned with you and your well being → because I'm loving you the way Jesus has loved me.

There's 2 sides here too. Helping, and knowing when we need help. Some of us find it way easier to help than to admit we need help. To admit that we have a burden we can't carry alone, and to find brothers and sisters in Christ to carry it with us.

Both sides here, both carrying with others and allowing others to carry with you forces us into a healthy humility.

III. Healthy Humility

V3-5 point us to this type of healthy humility. One of the most freeing things in the world, if we can every really grasp it, it might just be me, is that you don't have to be perfect. I'm a bit of a perfectionist in certain areas. And the Lord is (painfully) breaking down the perfectionism in me. One day, and even one moment, at a time.

Don't be fooled / Examine Yourself / Do Your Work → Hear this as a call to a healthy humility, that trusts in Christ Alone, that knows that our acceptance before God isn't based on being better than the next guy, but that it's ENTIRELY by grace through Faith, and allow that to free us to obey. Like sons, not like slaves. One of the hardest things for some of us to understand is that God doesn't love you because of your performance for Him, He loves you (if you are a Christian) because of Jesus. Forget the comparison games that say "well at least I'm not as bad as, or at least I'm a little bit better than that guy." Examine yourself, carry your own load, know that Jesus loves you not based on your performance for him, but as a child of his.

This type of healthy humility, it's knowing that your acceptance has NOTHING to do with your performance. Your acceptance has everything to do with JESUS, and the faith you have placed in HIM ALONE!

Paul continues pointing the churches, as us to a care for its leaders in V6

Read V6

- Care and concern for those charged with teaching and leading in the church.
- Balanced perspective here -

Then the final 4 verses call us to

IV. Pressing on in Practical Holiness

Earlier in CH5 Paul compares the works of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit. And here, he's hammering this point that we can't spend time pursuing our own wicked desires AND the things of God. We have to choose.

How do we sow the Spirit, and pursue the things of God? Our natural drift isn't toward Godliness. We all will drift toward the flesh.

- Worship
- Word
- Prayer
- Body life

And we don't ever, ever give up.

WRAP IT TOGETHER – the balance that we have here. Not making the Gospely error on either side, but rather

