

## Galatians 6:1-10

**Hey, good morning church and thank you for tuning in this morning.** Unfortunately we had to make a last minute change and go online only, just for today, due to Covid. One of my kids has come down with Covid, and I was primary caregiver – so Matt and I decided it would be best to transition to online only, just for today as a precaution. Shawnkos is doing well though, as expected he has a very mild case and will be back to school no problem.

This morning though, just a quick message because I know attention spans are hard online – just a quick message in Galatians 6:1-10. I actually preached from this text a couple of months ago when we were in the church wide reading plan through parts of the New Testament.

Galatians 6 – if you’ve analyzed Paul’s writings – his typical pattern is to spend maybe 2/3 of his letter laying out deep theology, or addressing specific theological issues – and then in the last 3<sup>rd</sup> laying out the applications of that theology. And Galatians fits this pattern, with Paul kind of making that shift in chapter 5 – Matt led us through Galatians 5:1-15 where Paul tells us to use our freedom, freedom from the law, freedom to obey → use it to serve one another. Then last week we saw him tell us to kill the flesh and walk by the Spirit with these 9 specific marks of a person that is walking by the Spirit → what Paul called the Fruit of the Spirit.

And now in today’s text, he gets even more practical with – ok Jesus has set us free, walk by the Spirit – here’s what that looks like in the context of the local church, the family that we call the church.

### READ

Galatians 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,<sup>[a]</sup> watching out for yourselves so that you also won’t be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each person examine his own work, and then he can take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. <sup>5</sup> For each person will have to carry his own load.

<sup>6</sup> Let the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher. <sup>7</sup> Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, <sup>8</sup> because 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. <sup>9</sup> Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

### PRAY

**The picture Paul is giving us is what it looks like, when individual Christians, justified by faith alone, pursuing Christ – what it looks like when we have the Spirit inside of us, and the family**

**of God surrounding us. The Spirit inside of us, the family surrounding us. The first thing that we are free to be is a gentle & cautious restorer**

### **I. Humble Restorer (V1)**

We're called to restore our brothers and sisters. But we have to do this from a proper posture. First, we gotta check ourselves before we wreck ourselves though. Because look at the qualifier – those who are spiritual – that's a HUGE qualifier. Doesn't say those who are self-righteous! Most of the "restoration" I got, was really just self-righteous, arrogant, judgment. Paul also says to do it with a gentle spirit and to watch over yourself. See, the trio of (1) spirituality, (2) gentleness, and (3) self protection → that's the trio with which we have to seek to restore our brother and sister. It's a posture of humility.

It's way easier to self-righteously tear someone down, all the while ignoring your own sin. It's hard, spiritual battle to be a humble restorer → but it's worth it. I know there's been times in my own life when I've taken the wrong posture, and I know there's been times in my life when I've taken a God-honoring posture. It's always worth it to take a God-honoring posture of humility, in the context of relationship, to be a humble restorer.

We should also be a burden sharer

### **II. Burden Sharer**

The picture here is when a brother or sister or family is dealing with the extra heavy load of circumstance. The exceptional circumstance. And they need help.

You've heard me say this before, maybe – but see here there's 2 sides to burden sharing. For some of us, we got no problem helping someone in need, but our own pride makes it so that we never ask for help. There's 2 sides to the burden – helping when others need help and allowing for people in the family to help you when you need it! There are some burdens too great to carry yourself – and even trying to will crush you. Don't get stuck in some prideful rut of perceived self reliance. Help people, and willingly help people.

But wait, there's more. Paul says in V4-5 that each of us should be a willing to contribute yourself – a willing contributor

### **III. Willing Contributor (4-5)**

You can't use the Bible to build a theology of laziness. Here, Paul says each one should carry his own load. And so there's a balance between those extraordinary burdens that we need help carrying, and the everyday rhythms that we work out each day. It's interesting too, in another letter, Paul told a group of church people that if they didn't work they shouldn't eat. Again – you can't use the Bible to build a theology of laziness. The Gospel frees us to be a willing contributor.

### **IV. Generous Sharer**

Let the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher. This one is pretty straightforward. Posture of generosity toward those who labor in teaching the word.

## **V. Spiritual Farmer**

V7-8: The concept of sowing and reaping. We're not in a farming society. Very rare do we have people that actively farm, maybe some of you have some herbs or tomatoes that you tend to or a citrus tree outback. We will reap what we sow. If we sow to the Spirit → pursuing the fruit of the Spirit, we will reap eternal life. If we sow to the flesh – we will reap destruction. And there's really no middle ground here.

Just like last week when the question Paul gave us was, in essence, are you controlled and dominated by the flesh or the Holy Spirit – same here, are you actively pursuing the work of the Spirit or are you actively pursuing the work of the flesh?

Lastly, the final thing Paul points us to is to be a Doer of Good

## **VI. Doer of Good**

**2 Things I want us to see here in these last 2 verses. Don't get tired, and take every opportunity.**

Don't get tired → You want to know a certain way to get tired (and grumpy by extension) If we try and live this way without relying on the Spirit of God inside of us. Another way to get tired and grumpy is by trying to live this way with wrong motives – looking for our own glory rather than God to be glorified. See we can't want everyone to know how awesome we are, while at the same time serving for the glory of God.

Take every opportunity → even the inconvenient ones. See if we try and do good to those in need when it's convenient (yeah it's never convenient). But there are opportunities all around us, if we will take them.

## **CLOSING**

The assumption behind all of these is that we are living in relationship. Relationship with Christ that frees us to live for the good of others and the glory of His name – that leads us to walk by the Spirit while we serve others in the church through meaningful relationships with the church family. Like yes, it's good godly to be involved in the lives of the people we are worshiping with. We can't do this whole Christian life alone. And believe, I see the irony in these statements on a day where we cancelled our public gathering due to COVID. I get it. But hear me – you can't live the Christian life faithfully through a computer, ipad or phone or TV or whatever. Online church is like Jumbo Shrimp – 2 words that don't go together.

Relationships take risk. You will be hurt in relationship – hopefully not on purpose – but it happens. I've been hurt by people, and I'm certain I've hurt people. Relationships are messy. But they're worth it. You don't give up on people, you don't write people off. You love people, in a God-honoring, Jesus glorifying type of way → for their good (and your good) and for the glory of God.