

“Do Good to All People”

May 11, 2025

Galatians 6:1-10

I. Introduction

Judaizers—legalists—had infected the churches of Galatia. New Christians had swallowed their line that being a Christian was more than making Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior ([Romans 10:9](#)). The legalists were insisting that being a Christian included following the Laws of Moses as well as any other restrictions devised by the “learned” Judaizers. These mislead Christians had become slaves to a checklist of “*Do’s and Don’ts.*” They had lost their joy and peace as they tried to measure up to impossible man-made standards. The Book of Galatians was God’s response to these false teachings.

Paul had concluded his theological argument about the false teachings of legalism by writing in [Galatians 5:1](#), “**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.**” As we saw last week, being free means that Christians are free from the guilt of sin, free from the penalty of sin, free from the power of sin, and free from the Law and all its demands. But freedom also means that Christians have choices to make. Paul wrote in [Galatians 5:13](#), “**You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.**” Christians can choose to live by the flesh or to live by the Spirit of God—the Holy Spirit. Obviously, the right choice—the peace- and joy-giving choice is to live by the Spirit and to allow the fruit of the Spirit to grow in one’s Christian life. But the fruit of the Spirit is to be used—used to “**serve one another in love.**” Or as Paul wrote to Christians in [Ephesians 2:10](#), “**We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**”

In today’s Scripture, Paul gave some examples or applications of the good works a Christian can do as he uses the fruit of the Spirit to “feed” and help others; i.e., to “*Do Good to All People.*” Paul described two important ministries that Christians ought to share with one another, beginning with carrying burdens.

II. Two Important Ministries

A. Carrying Burdens Throughout today’s Scripture, Paul contrasted the way the legalist acts with the way the spiritual man acts. For example, the legalist isn’t interested in carrying anyone’s burdens, he just

adds to the burdens of others as he gloats at “*his own goodness.*” In “The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector” in [Luke 18:9-14](#), the Pharisee prayed, “**God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.**” In [Matthew 23:4](#) Jesus summed up the legalist’s attitude this way, “**They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.**” In contrast, Paul wrote that the Christian brother should gently restore a fallen brother and carry the burden of the one who “**is caught in sin.**”

The word “*caught*” or “*overtaken*” carries the idea of being surprised. The man Paul described here in Galatians doesn’t commit the sin after premeditation but rather suddenly falls. Perhaps he flirts with a temptation he thinks he can withstand but falls instead. Perhaps he is led down the path of sin by a so called “*friend.*” Regardless of the reason for the fall of a fellow Christian, the spiritual man should seek to restore this brother in love. This is the 1st step of burden carrying: restoration. The word *restore* means “*to mend as a net or to reset a broken bone.*” The sinning believer is like a broken bone in the body, he needs to be restored-mended. In love—agape love—the believer who is led by the Spirit and living in the liberty of grace will seek to help the erring brother—one part of “**the fruit of the Spirit is love**” ([Galatians 5:22](#)).

Jesus’ command in [Matthew 7:1](#), “**Do not judge, or you too will be judged**” is often misused by Christians and others in opposing the church’s stand against certain evils, sin. To see Jesus’ meaning for this command, [turn to Matthew 7:1-5](#). Jesus was talking about the legalist—the Judaizer—the self-righteous, condemning person who acts as judge, passing judgment on others. Such a person is unqualified to judge—he sees only the best in himself and the worst in everyone else. However, if a person confesses and is cleansed of his own sin, the Lord says that he is qualified to confront his brother with the purpose not to condemn but “**to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**” This is the one who is “**spiritual,**” and such a person has the right and even the obligation to help a brother.

Paul and Jesus both said that the responsibility for restoring those who stumble, as well as those who deliberately sin, rests on the shoulders of those “**who are spiritual.**” Spiritual believers are those walking in

the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. The Spirit-led, Spirit-filled believer will approach the matter of restoration in a spirit of love and gentleness—both parts of the fruit of the Spirit.

BUT there is also a warning from Paul: “**Watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.**” The believer living by grace needs to remember that no one, including himself, is immune from temptation and falling—perhaps for the same sin, perhaps to some other temptation, perhaps to pride—**1 Corinthians 10:12** warns, “**So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!**” **Proverbs 16:18** explains, “**Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.**” The spiritual believer needs an attitude of humility because he recognizes his own weaknesses.

As well as restoring his fallen brother, the spiritual believer also has the responsibility of carrying “**each other's burdens.**” It isn't enough to help one who has fallen to turn from his sin. A spiritual, loving brother will help with the burden that tempts a restored believer to fall back into the sin that had “**caught**” him in the first place. Peter wrote in **1 Peter 5:7**, “**Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**” Sometimes God uses fellow believers as His agents to help carry the burdens of His children—even the burdens of anxiety. **James 5:16** says, “**Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.**”

Back in Galatians, Paul wrote that when believers “**carry each other's burdens,**” they “**fulfill the law of Christ.**” In **John 13:34** Jesus said, “**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**” **Galatians 5:14** says, “**The law of Christ**” is the law of love, which fulfills all the rest of God's law. One way of showing love is to “**carry each other's burdens.**”

Paul warned about pride again in **verse 3:** “**If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**” The Judaizers were guilty of boasting about themselves, their achievements, their converts. But as a Christian helps a fallen brother, he needs to guard his heart and mind from similar pride and conceit. He isn't to vindictively judge and condemn his fellow Christian. **Romans 12:3** puts it this way, “**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given**

you.” If the Christian helper refuses to see his own spiritual need, “he deceives himself” and is useless in serving God and helping fellow believers.

For this reason, Paul went on to write that “each one should test his own actions.” Every Christian must examine his own attitudes and life to make sure they are right in the eyes of the Lord before he tries to help someone else. The Christian, who thinks he is something when he is nothing, needs help in facing his own sin before he can be qualified to help anyone else out of sin—he needs to “take the plank out of” his own eye. Then when he boasts, it will be in what God has done. Turn to 2 Corinthians 10:17-18. All that we have and all that we are are from God; Jesus said in John 15:5, “Apart from me you can do nothing.”

Paul then wrote in verse 5, “For each one should carry his own load.” We should help each other carry the heavy burdens of life, but there are personal responsibilities each person should carry himself. For example, if your car breaks down, a friend or a neighbor can help drive your children to school, but he cannot take over the responsibilities that belong to you as their father or mother. It would be wrong for you to expect somebody else to be the parent of your family in your place; that is a load or burden (and privilege) that you alone can bear.

B. Sharing Blessings As well as carrying burdens for each other, Paul wrote that we should share blessings with each other. He wrote in verse 6: “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.” Some people interpret this verse as saying that congregations should pay their pastors fairly—and perhaps it does. But following on the application of carrying one another’s burdens and since “good things” means more than just money; it is more general than that. Paul was writing about both parties—the restored sinner and his Christian brother—sharing together the good things they have—whatever they may be. They need to share their blessings—physical as well as spiritual—with one another.

With shared blessings and carrying burdens in mind, Paul wrote in verse 7, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Paul was warning all believers about deceiving themselves. God cannot be fooled. God sees the heart—1 Samuel 16:7 says, “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” God KNOWS and, for

this reason, Paul wrote in [verse 4](#), “Each one should test his own actions.” Each Christian is responsible for his actions. The principle is: “[A man reaps what he sows.](#)”

The principle of sowing and reaping is found throughout the Bible. Looking at material blessings, i.e., “[all good things](#),” Paul saw two kinds of soil: the flesh and the Spirit. A Christian can use his/her material goods to promote the flesh, or to promote the things of the Spirit. But Paul warned in so many words that once one has finished sowing, the harvest cannot be changed. [Job 4:8](#) says, “[Those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.](#)”

Money, goods, blessings sown to the flesh or the sinful nature will bring a harvest of corruption—[turn back to Galatians 5:19-21](#). On the other hand, money, goods, and blessings sown to the Spirit (such as sharing with those who teach the Word or those in need) will produce life, and in that harvest will be seeds that can be planted again for another harvest, and on and on into eternity. If every believer would look on his material wealth as seed and would plant it properly, there would be no lack in the work of the Lord.

In [Galatians 6:9](#) Paul wrote, “[Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.](#)” Here is a promise: “[we will reap a harvest.](#)” But along with the promise there is danger: getting weary or tired in the work of the Lord, and then eventually giving up and quitting one’s ministry all together. Sometimes giving up or spiritual fainting is caused by a lack of nourishment—in [Matthew 4:4](#) Jesus said, “[Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.](#)” Sometimes a person gives up because of lack of prayer—[Luke 18:1](#) says, “[That they should always pray and not give up.](#)” Sometimes one gives up because of lack of devotion to the Lord—[Matthew 6:21](#) says, “[For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.](#)”

But the promise Paul gave will help us keep going: “[At the proper time we will reap a harvest.](#)” Seed that is planted does not bear fruit immediately. There are seasons to the soul just as there are seasons to nature, and we must give seed time to take root and bear fruit. But it will bear fruit—in [Isaiah 55:11](#) God said, “[So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.](#)” God promises a harvest, but [2 Corinthians 9:6](#) reminds

us that “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” The believer who walks in the Spirit and “sows” in the Spirit is going to reap a spiritual harvest. If his sowing has been generous, the harvest will be bountiful, if not in this life, certainly in the life to come—turn to Hebrews 12:1-3.

IV. Conclusion

Verse 10 is the conclusion for this whole section, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” We are to do good to all people. This is how we let our light shine and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). It isn’t only by words that we witness to the lost, but also by our works. Actually, it’s our works that open the door for our words—it was Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote, “*What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.*” Turn to 1 Peter 2:11-12.

As we “do good to all people,” Paul wrote that we must give priority to “the family of believers.” The first test of our love for God is our love for His other children, our brothers and sisters in the Lord. 1 John 4:20-21 says, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.” We share with other Christians so that all of us might be able to share with a needy world. Such sowing makes for joyful reaping, and it is glowing testimony to those outside salvation. How we treat each other is our greatest attraction to a world seeking love, kindness, and compassion. As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 3:12, “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.” Let us do good to all people in the name of the Lord so that His Name will be praised.