

“Living for Others”

Galatians 6

Big Idea – Jesus Christ loved me so I can love others.

John 13:34 “I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.

1. Bear and share the burdens – vs. 1-5

Vs. 1 – give a hand up, not a put-down

Paul is really contrasting the way the legalist would deal with the erring brother, and the way the spiritual man would deal with him.

A contrast in aim. The spiritual man would seek to restore the brother in love, while the legalist would exploit the brother. The word restore means "to mend, as a net, or to restore a broken bone." If you have ever had a broken bone, you know how painful it is to have it set. The sinning believer is like a broken bone in the body, and he needs to be restored. The believer who is led by the Spirit and living in the liberty of grace will seek to help the erring brother, for "the fruit of the Spirit is love" (Gal. 5:22). "By love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). When Jesus sought to be a physician to the sinful, He was severely criticized by the Pharisees (Mark 2:13-17), and so the spiritual believer today will be criticized by the legalists.

Instead of trying to restore the erring brother, the legalist will condemn him and then use the brother to make himself look good. This is what the Pharisee did in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14). "[Love] shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). The legalist rejoices when a brother falls, and often gives the matter wide publicity, because then he can boast about his own goodness and how much better his group is than the group to which the fallen brother belongs.

Vs. 2 – law of Christ is called royal law of love in James 2:8

Different Attitude of love – remember Jesus' command in John 13:34?

Vs. 3 Don't be puffed up – Philippians 2:3, & 1 Cor. 13

Remember that the legalist always tries to make himself look better by making others look worse.

Vs. 4. Check yourself – take log out of your own eye

Matthew 7:4, 5

Vs.5 Be responsible for your own pack, your own stuff first, before try to help others.

no contradiction between Galatians 6:2 and 5, because two different Greek words for burden are used. Galatians 6:2 it's a word meaning "a heavy burden," while in Galatians 6:5 it describes "a soldier's pack." We should help each other bear the heavy burdens of life, but there are personal responsibilities that each man must bear for himself. "Each soldier must bear his own pack." If my car breaks down, my neighbor can help drive my children to school, but he cannot assume the responsibilities that only belong to me as their father. That is the difference. It is wrong for me to expect somebody else to be the father in our family; that is a burden (and a privilege) that I alone can bear.

2. Share the blessings – vs. 6-10 (Be generous and do good)

Vs. 6 The precept – give material goods to those who give spiritual food

Vs. 7,8 The principle of sowing and reaping

Vs. 9 The promise – you'll reap in "due season" at God's right time

Fainting, or losing heart can be caused by:

Lack of devotion – improper motivation – needs to be love

Lack of prayer – Luke 18:1

Vs. 10 The priority of the household of faith

3. Stop trying to please others – vs. 11-13

The legalists were proud of their circumcision and tried to make others do this "in order to get saved." They were boasting in their works

4. Stay focused on the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ – vs. 14 – 18

Glory in the Cross – stay near the Cross

Don't let anyone or anything trouble you – identify with the marks of Christ

Let His grace flow through your spirit

There was a time when Paul was proud of his mark of circumcision (Phil. 3:4-6), but after he became a believer, he became a "marked man" in a different way. He now gloried in the scars he had received and in the suffering he had endured in the service of Jesus Christ.

The contrast with the legalists is plain to see: "The Judaizers want to mark your flesh and brag about you, but I bear in my body the brands of the Lord Jesus Christ—for His glory." What a rebuke! "If your religious celebrities have any scars to show for the glory of Christ, then let them be shown. Otherwise—stop bothering me!"

Paul is not claiming that he bore the five wounds of Calvary on his body. Rather he is affirming that he has suffered for Christ's sake (something the legalists never did), and he had on his body the scars to prove it. When you read 2 Corinthians 11:18-33, you have no difficulty understanding this claim of his, for in many ways and in many places Paul suffered physically for Christ.

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