

The Courage To Do the Right Thing

Gal. 6:1-10

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1. Purpose – The Holy Spirit!

... the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (8b)

You who are spiritual...(1)

pious? preachy? ordained?

Spiritual?

- not always connected to age or length of time a person has been a Christian.

- every Christ – follower has the Holy Spirit living within –

(1 Cor. 12:13; Rom 8:9)

Every day, every moment, a Christian has the choice –

- Rely on the flesh? Rely on the Holy Spirit?

- Think “fleshly” thoughts? Think thoughts in sync with the Holy Spirit?

- Let the flesh lead you? Let the Holy Spirit lead you?

“Spiritual” Maturity is when we develop a pattern of life of “spiritual” choices.

... those who have their powers of discernment stained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Heb. 5:14

Eph. 5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit

Eph. 4:30 – Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

Rom. 8:5 – For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:16 - Walk by the Spirit ...

Gal. 5:18 - If you are led by the Spirit ...

Gal. 5:22-23 -The fruit of the Spirit ...

Sow to the Spirit (8b)

- His purposes?
- His plan?
- His product?
- His power?
- His priorities?
- His passion?

2. Preparation of the heart?

Root idea of pride – It makes us tall in our own eyes.

Problem? It lifts us out of the flow of God's grace.

Pride is the root of every sin and pollutes every religious motivation and action.

“God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.” Martin Luther

Pride hinders helping

- contaminates the motive – (doing this so I can look good)
- controls the conversation – (superior – looking down at others)
- condemn without a window of hope (you blew it)
- Clouds our thinking and decision making (I'm right and others are wrong)
- Humility is always the first step toward any spiritual transformation.
- Humility gives us a right view of God and of ourselves.
- Humility bends stiff knees and softens hard hearts.

“Humility always seeks like Jesus, to be the servant, the helper... even to the lowest and most unworthy.” Andrew Murray

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient...

- Compassionate?

Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. (2)

“Burden” - spiritually trapped; in the grip of Satan; struggling,

Can I help you with that?

Cast your burden on the Lord,
and He will sustain you.

Ps. 55:22

... the law of Christ is the law of love. Gal. 5:14 Rom. 13:8

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Rom. 15:1

Gentle?

... restore him in a spirit of gentleness (1)

“Restore” – to mend; repair; heal; to refit a fishing net and get it ready for the next voyage.

“Gentleness” – careful; thoughtful; sensitive to pain; not making it worse.

- ...fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

“Dry up” – no help

“Foul” up – wrong help

“Throw” up – hurtful help

“Give” up – useless help

Patient?

... restore him in a spirit of gentleness (1)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap... (9)

... if we do not give up.

And we urge you brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak.

1 Thess. 5:14

... be patient with them all.

... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

Eph. 4:2

Patience -

- with certain people easy, others hard.
- with certain situations easy, others hard.
- with certain expectations easy, others hard.
- with certain times of the day easy, other times hard.

Personal Perspective?

- Watch yourself

Keep Watch on yourself lest you too be tempted (1b)

(No one is beyond stumbling)

Satan is a deceiver -

- confused on what sin really is
- blind to sin
- unaware of God's plan
- lose our way
- Test yourself -

But Let each one test his own work(4)

(examine your own motives, attitudes, and behavior)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything that offends you... Ps. 139:23-24 (NLT)

- Take care of yourself

For each will have to bear his own load.(5)

"personal responsibility" – though we are to be there for one another it comes down to personal responsibility for my own choices.

4. Praise? The Cross of Jesus Christ!

Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ!

(6:14)

Double negative

No way, never, impossible!

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1

Cor. 2:2

"The Cross"

- pivotal work of God to -
- set us free

- adopt us
- purchase us
- empower us
- transform us
- heal us

All that we do for others is really all about HIM!

- our ability is His ability.
- our resources are His resources.
- our love is His love.
- our wisdom is His wisdom.