

Study: Galatians 6:1-10, Reaping What you Sow

Can you think of a time when you were called to help someone with a personal struggle?

- Were there any challenges or worries that got in the way?

1) Restoring Gently

Galatians 6:1-10 (NIV)

¹ Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

What imperatives, or commands, does Paul give in this passage?

What, if anything, do these commands have in common?

What is our responsibility towards those who lapse or sin?

Think of a time where someone caught you doing something wrong. Did they “restore gently” or something else?

- How did that impact you?

Now think of a time when you noticed something about someone else that needed correcting. How did that affect you?

The Law of Christ - Not to be confused with Paul's previous references to the Law of Moses, Paul's reference to the "Law of Christ" refers to new life in the Spirit. "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." (Galatians 5:18). One way this happens is when we carry our neighbor's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

How do Paul's commands to "carry each other's burdens" and for each one to "carry his own load" make sense together in this passage?

2) Reaping what you Sow

What does it mean to "reap destruction" or "reap eternal life"?

James 2:14-19 (NIV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

What do good works have to do with faith?

One commonly used expression of the Gospel is:

Jesus + Nothing = Everything

Which of the following distortions of the Gospel are you tempted to fall into?

Jesus + The Good Stuff I Do = Everything

Jesus + Nothing = A Free Pass to Do Whatever I Want

The Good Stuff I Do (I Don't Really Need Jesus) = Everything

- Are there others?
- How can you fight against these lies?

What is our community application of this passage?