

Gal 16 – Sowing & Reaping - Gal 6:6-10

We're in our **4th msg** - on a subject Paul started back in **Gal 5:16**
Namely - "Walking in The Spirit" – (& specifically - *In the Church*)

We spent **Two wks** looking at **the battle** & the **contrast** between
the Works of the Flesh & the Fruit of the Spirit

Last wk we looked at the **1st part** of the "Practical Application" –
& we **found** we're actually Called to Restore one another –
& we're called to Help Carry one another's burdens

This wk - we cont. to "Apply" Walking in the Spirit – to our own lives !
& - we get a chance to look at that Immutable (*unchangeable*) law of God -
the Law of "**Sowing & Reaping**"

Let's Pray

our 1st Vs. today (v.6) **could've been** w/ last wk's - or this wk's msg –
it's a continuation of "Bearing one another's Burdens",
& "Carrying our own load" (*that we talked about last wk*)

Gal 6:6

6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

This vs. **flows right out** of last week's text . . .

last wk we we're taught to

- 1) "Bear one another's **Burdens** (difficulties)" - & so *Fulfill the Law of Christ*
- 2) "**Not judge** one another" – but instead - to examine our own work
- 3) "Bear (carry) our own **Load** (responsibility)"

& we made it clear last wk - **these two** commands are not contradictory –
they're **actually related** to one another (*which we see in v.6*)

V.6 is in essence – **an example** of these commands from last week –

there are 2 parties in this example in v.6;

one who is **taught** the Word --- & one who **teaches** –
& **they are both called** to a “Sharing” relationship

& by **each of them** carrying their own load (responsibilities) – (v.5)
they help Bear **one another’s** Burdens (Difficulties) – (v.2)

(again) **Gal 6:6**

6 Let him who is taught the word **share** in all good things with him who teaches.

the word “**share**” is the **Verb form** of that wonderful word – “Koinonia” –
Means **Lit.** – to “commune or fellowship” –
to have “part” or “share” in one another

when it’s a Verb – it becomes an action word – & it means to
“**make yourself a Sharer**” – “**to actively be part of another**”

& this word Koinonia - is a **mutual** or “**two way**” word –
implying - the one who **teaches** & the one who is **taught**
are commanded to “Share” or “be part” of one another

& then **the phrase** “in all good things” – is a **broad term** meaning
sharing both **spiritual** and **material** things

So - We see **the Teacher** is to **Share with the Learner** in all good things –
thereby helping him carry his burden (V.2) . . .

& **the Learner** is to **Share with the Teacher** in all good things –
thereby helping him carry his burden

It’s a perfect example of God’s design for each member of the body to Edify
(build-up) one another - there-by helping carry one another’s burdens

Now – in V.7 – it may seem Paul's changing thoughts - but he's not –
all the way thru V.10 he's on the same subject –
that is - the Practical Application – of Walking in the Spirit

& so – still on the same subject Paul writes in Gal 6:7

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Now – this is a great “Stand-Alone” Vs. –
& has tremendous power when it is quoted on it's own

But I believe it has more power - when we realize the context it's in;
Restoring one another
Bearing one another's burdens - &
Fulfilling the role we've been given in the body

& in THAT context Paul sends this Fiery Arrow – piercing to our hearts;

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Paul starts with the attention getting “Do not be deceived” –
The Lit = “Do not be led astray” - -
But the implication seems to be “Don't FOOL YOURSELF”

& then the Sobering Warning – “God IS NOT Mocked”
Word means Lit – “To turn up your nose” = “to scorn” or “to sneer”

“Do not Fool Yourself - & Do Not Mock God” –
that is a strong way to begin a Universal Law - - -
I believe it means . . . **LISTEN VERY CLOSELY**

& then comes the Immutable – Universal Law –
“for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”

The **obvious illustration** here is from **Agriculture** –

We live in a **Farming community** here –

& there's **one thing** a Farmer knows . . .

What he plants in the ground – **THAT** is what is **going to grow** – & a **Farmer** **NEVER** expects – **something other than** what he plants – **to grow** !

A **Farmer doesn't** come back in from the field - & say to his wife

“well honey, I spent all day planting wheat . . .

I wonder what we're going reap at harvest time” –

He doesn't say . . .

“I sure hope that wheat I planted produces some sweet Watermelon”

Now **that's ridiculous** – in fact it's an **insult** to your **intelligence**

to imply that a Farmer would **be naïve enuf** to think he was going to reap **something other** than what he had sown . . .

Ridiculous – yet we **see it every day** in the church (*which is the context*). . .

people **expecting to Reap** something **other** than what they've **sown**

We see people sowing **Un-forgiveness** - & when their **harvest time comes** they expect to reap **Forgiveness**

We see people sowing **Wrath** – & when their **harvest time comes**

they expect to reap **Mercy**

We must Remember the context this Vs is written in –

is our Calling to help **bear one another's burdens** in the church –

is our Calling to **Care for one another** - & to **Share with one another** –

& in that context Paul says; ***Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***

Now - because this is a **Universal Law** – it applies to **every area** in our lives – but it's **written in the context** – of how we're to **care for one another**

& the Real Point is - the Universal law of Sowing & Reaping is just as Valid in the Spiritual Realm as it is in the Physical Realm . . .

Now this scares me – & I believe that's exactly what it's supposed to do

It scares me because I've sown some un-forgiveness –
I've sown some wrath . . . (& some other things too)

& I want you to know today – The Law of Sowing & Reaping
does not contradict the Gospel of Grace

In fact – it actually proves it – because when I'm "Identified w/ Christ"
I take on the Righteousness HE'S Sown –
I take on the Eternal Life He's Reaped

& when 1Jn 1:9 says

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Man that is true - & you can take it all the way to the Eternal Bank –
In Christ we are forgiven & cleansed from all unrighteousness

But – does that mean we avoid ALL the consequences of our sowing ??? **NO**

But - "In Christ" we can Crucify that Old seed that was planted –
& Jesus Christ can plant the seed of a new creation in it's place

2Cor 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

the only way to change the nature of what I've sown – in my self –
is for me to receive a NEW Nature

That old nature MUST DIE – & a new nature Must take it's place

Where there was **Un-Forgiveness planted** in my heart –
Jesus Christ *can Crucify* that seed - & *replace it* with **Forgiveness** . . .

Where there was **Wrath planted** in my heart –
Jesus Christ *can Crucify* that seed - & *replace it* with **Mercy**

& so – while the **law of Sowing & Reaping** will always be in effect –
so also – will the **Law of Grace & Mercy** (& for that – we thank God)

As we continue – it **doesn't get** any easier – *in fact* – it gets **more graphic**

Gal 6:8

*8 For he who **sows** to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who **sows** to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

The **good news here** is the Greek Verb – “sows”
it's Tense/Voice/Mood = **Present** / **Active** / **Participle**

Which means (in English) “**He who is Continually, Actively, Sowing**”

In **Ch 5** - Paul made it clear - our actions **can be classified** in just 1 of 2 areas
Either the **Works of the Flesh** – or the **Fruit of the Spirit**

& now *Paul uses* those **same two areas** –
to define what we are **Continually, Actively, Sowing** in our lives

Today – Right Now – Each of us are either
Sowing to **the Flesh** or Sowing to **the Spirit** - -
& what we **Continually, Actively, Sow** - is Ultimately what we will Reap

Remember – For a Christian - the Flesh is a reference to our Sin Nature
that's been **“Positionally” crucified** in Christ -
but is **still available** for us to “Serve” (sow to)

& as Christians - we still have the opportunity to **Sow to the Flesh** –
& **if we continue** to do so – we will **Eventually** Reap “*Corruption*”

This word “**Corruption**” = Lit – “*The Degeneration from Good to Bad*” –
the picture is of **food** going from being **healthy** – to being **dangerous** –
which is exactly what **sowing to the flesh** does to our lives

Now - the word **corruption** also has (ultimately) an “**Eternal**” meaning –

But **the context** here - is how we – *As Christians* - “**Corrupt**” our lives by
sowing to the flesh – (Degenerating from Good - - - to Bad)

John Stott: *“Every time we allow our mind to harbor a grudge, nurse a grievance, entertain an impure fantasy, or wallow in self-pity, we are sowing to the flesh. Every time we linger in bad company whose influence we cannot resist, . . . every time we read pornographic literature, every time we take a risk which strains our self-control, we are sowing, sowing, sowing to the flesh*

& **if we continually** **sow to the flesh** we will **reap Corruption** -
the **Degeneration** of a life from **Good** - to **Bad** – to **Worse**

Now – **That’s** the Bad news – But there’s **Good News** too -
& the Good news **Far outweighs** the bad news

The 2nd half of Gal 6:8 says;

*8 . . . but he who **sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit reap **everlasting life**.*

As true as this is in the **Negative** – It is just **as true** in the **Positive** –
In fact – it is **Supernaturally True**

Sowing to the Spirit is choosing the Supernatural **leading** & **empowering**
of the Holy Spirit - - **over** the **natural leading** of your flesh

it is **Crucifying** the **Works of the Flesh** (**Gal 5:19-21**)

& allowing the Holy Spirit to **Produce** the **Fruit of the Spirit** (**Gal 5:22-23**)

& when you Sow to the Spirit - **Gal 6:8** says you will reap "**everlasting life**"

Sowing to the Spirit is the same as;

Setting your Mind on the Spirit

Walking in the Spirit

Being Led by the Spirit

It comes from **being Filled with** (Immersed in) the Holy Spirit

It is – As Rom 12:1-2 says;

presenting your body as a Living Sacrifice - & not being Conformed to this World – but being Transformed by the Renewing of your mind

& **just as sure** as you sowing *anything else* – when you **sow to the Spirit** **you will reap** the benefits that come with eternal life

Now – Paul's **not saying** you **Earn** Eternal Life – by what you sow . . .

He's contrasting the **Corruption** of our lives by Sowing to the Flesh – w/ the Supernatural **benefits** that come - by Sowing to the Spirit

It is the **Dire Contrast of Extreme's** that Paul is Painting;

Flesh = **Corruption**

Spirit = **Life** - & *that more abundantly*

We can **actually experience** a "*down payment*" (small taste) of our Eternal life - right now – by **Sowing to the Spirit** –

& that's in **stark contrast** to the *corruption & decay* that comes from sowing to the Flesh

but **it's a battle** to Sow to Spirit - & to Crucify the flesh . . . **ISN'T IT ??**

it's **a battle** because in **Gal 5:17** we read - the Flesh & the Spirit
are at **constant war** with each other –
& all you get to do is **choose** which one to **serve**

So in **Gal 6:9** Paul sends some *needed encouragement*

Gal 6:9

*9 And let us **not grow weary** while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we **do not lose heart**.*

Crucifying your Flesh & regulating your life *by the Spirit* - is a **Battle** –
But it is the **greatest Battle** we could ever be engaged in . . .

because the **enemy** of the Flesh is **temporal & fleeting** –
but the **reward** of the Spirit is **eternal** . . . *beyond* our ability to conceive

so Paul says – **Don't grow weary** while doing good –
for in Due Season we shall reap . . . (The Law of Sowing & Reaping)

Paul often Contrasts this **Temporary battle** – to our **Eternal Reward**
in order to *strengthen & encourage* us . . .

Rom 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2Cor 4:17

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

The **Victory is coming** – in *due season* - & it will be *more than* worth it

in fact – the victory is **Already Won** – we just have to continue *to stand in it*

1Cor 15:57-58 (after talking about our final Victory over Death)

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The battle of Crucifying the Flesh - & Sowing to the Spirit
is **NEVER** in Vain – WHY ?

because of the Immutable (unchangeable) Law of Sowing & Reaping

If you sow to the Spirit you **WILL** reap the benefits of Eternal Life –
& those benefits start - even **before** we get to Heaven

Now – one final time – Paul **reminds us** – He is **primarily** talking about
how we are to treat one another . . . & so he says;

Gal 6:10

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

It's **critical** we understand – the **1st place** we apply "Walking in the Spirit"
is in how we **treat** one another

[repeat vs]

& now we've **done 4 messages** about Walking in the Spirit

& now we can Review – from the last 4 messages;

TEN **areas** to allow the Holy Spirit to **Regulate** in your life

TEN **guidelines** to regulate our **care for one another** in The Church

TEN **areas** that the Flesh will Corrupt – if we allow it to

these **TEN Major Points** have all been made -
in the last 4 messages about **Walking in the Spirit**;

- 1) **Walk** in the Spirit (regulate life), and Crucify the Flesh (**5:16-25**)
- 2) **Do not** become Self-centered (conceited) (**5:26**)
- 3) **Restore** one another, if anyone is overtaken in sin (**6:1**)
- 4) **Bear** one another's Burdens, & so fulfill the law of Christ (**6:2**)
- 5) **Do not** judge one another, but examine your own actions only (**6:4**)
- 6) **Do** what God has given you to do (**6:5**)
- 7) **Share** with one another "in all good things" (teaching or learning) (**6:6**)
- 8) **Sow** to the Spirit, and not to the Flesh (**6:8**)
- 9) **Do not** grow weary in doing good, do not lose heart (**6:9**)
- 10) & **do good** to those who are of the Household of Faith (**6:10**)

TEN areas that take the **full power** of the *Holy Spirit* living in you –
to *bring about* in your life

& so now – we have a **Ten Part Litmus test** –
to see if we are truly *Walking in the Spirit*

They can *only be achieved* by us **DAILY** being *filled with the Holy Spirit* –
& **allowing Him** to produce this Fruit in you

To learn more about **HOW** to be "*Filled with the Spirit*" –
ask for the msg "**Spirit or Flesh**" – Or the entire "**Holy Spirit**" series

But for today – **we'll end** with the Vs **we started with** 4 messages ago;

Gal 5:16

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Let's Pray