

LESSON

12

GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS

Galatians 6:1-10

1. SERMON & JOURNALING NOTES

Write down truths that jump out at you during the sermon or in your journaling. Spend time each day journaling through this passage in preparation for your small group discussion. Circle keywords. Underline key phrases. Put an "!" by words or phrases that are convicting or challenging. Put a "?" mark by words or phrases that you have questions about.

Galatians 6:1-10

[1] 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.

[2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

[3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

[4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

[5] For each will have to bear his own load.

[6] Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

[7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

[8] 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.

[9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

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

2. OPENING QUESTION

3. BIG IDEA

Gospel doctrine always creates gospel community.

4. SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **Galatians 6:7**

5. BIBLE CONVERSATION

We've been walking through Paul's letter to the Galatians hearing him hammer one core truth again and again: we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. JESUS + Nothing is not just the way we enter the Christian life—it is the way we live the Christian life.

In chapter 5 Paul showed us the inner battle between the flesh and the Spirit. He shows us how gospel character is forged in us by walking in the Spirit. Now, in chapter 6, Paul shows us what gospel forged relationships looks like. Because gospel doctrine should always create gospel culture. And here in Galatians 6:1-10, Paul gives us a snapshot of what a grace-shaped people look like.

READ: Galatians 6:1-10 (Take a moment to journal through this text before discussing it.)

Paul gives us five marks of gospel relationships.

Restore the fallen (v. 1)

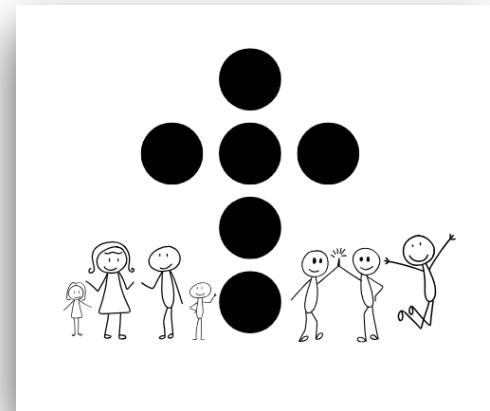
The first mark of gospel relationships is that we restore the fallen. Paul writes in verse 1, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness." Notice Paul's assumption: Christians will sin. Not if, but when someone is caught in sin. The question is not, Will sin happen in the community? The question is, What will gospel people do when it happens? Paul says, "restore." Not shame. Not expose. Not gossip. Restore. The word "restore" is a medical term used for setting a broken bone. It means to bring someone back to wholeness.

And how do we restore? "In a spirit of gentleness." Why? Because that is how Jesus restores us (Matt. 11:29). Truth is like a scalpel—a scalpel can be used to harm or to heal. It all depends on how it is wielded. A scalpel wielded gently can bring deep healing and freedom from sin. However, much harm has been done by well-intended people who sought to restore a brother or sister "caught in any transgression" without gentleness.

How does the gospel produce gentleness in us? Paul answers this when he writes, "Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted" (v. 1b). How do we keep watch on ourselves? The only way I know is by being deeply connected to a community at the foot of the cross (see figure on next page). The cross produces in us a humble confidence. It simultaneously shows us that we are so sinful that Christ *had* to die for us, and yet so loved that He *gladly* died for us. Humble—because we know we are sinful.

Confident—because we know we are deeply loved. This humility leads us to confront people in sin with gentleness, and this confidence enables us to stand with and defend a brother or sister against Satan and sin. We must restore brothers and sisters who caught in sin with a humble confidence.

Every church that forgets the gospel becomes harsh. But every church that remembers the gospel becomes gentle—a safe place where people experience deep healing and freedom from sin.



Take a moment to answer the following questions:

- *Why do you think Paul emphasizes “restore” rather than shame, expose, or gossip? How have you seen restoration done well—or done poorly—in the church?*
- *Paul says restoration must happen “in a spirit of gentleness.” What does gentleness look like in real conversations with someone caught in sin? What makes gentleness difficult in those moments?*

Carry One Another’s Burdens (v. 2-3)

The second mark of gospel relationships is that we carry one another’s burdens. Paul writes in verse 2, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” A “burden” is anything too heavy for one person to carry alone—grief, anxiety, spiritual defeat, financial weight, addiction, loneliness, trauma. When the Spirit is at work, nobody carries their pain alone.

Paul says when we do this, we “fulfill the law of Christ.” What is the law of Christ? Love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34) The opposite of burden-bearing is self-importance. That’s why Paul immediately says, “If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” (v. 3) Pride isolates. Pride avoids. Pride says, “Your burden is your problem.” But the gospel humbles us. It empowers us to be inconvenienced for others. Jesus carried our ultimate burden—the weight of sin—therefore we gladly carry one another’s burdens.

Take a moment to answer the following questions:

- *Where have you personally experienced a burden that was “too heavy to carry alone”? How did another believer help you – or how do you wish someone would have helped you?*
- *Paul says pride keeps us from carrying one another’s burdens. In what subtle ways can pride show up in community—either in refusing help or avoiding others’ needs?*

Carry Your Own Load (v. 4-6)

Mark number three is this: we take responsibility for our own load. Paul intentionally shifts metaphors in Galatians 6 to make an important distinction. In verse 2, he talks about burdens—crushing weights too heavy for any one person to carry alone. These require help, compassion, and community. But in verse 5, he speaks of a load—a personal backpack, the kind of weight each person is expected to carry themselves.

This distinction is crucial. Christian community does not eliminate personal responsibility. Some things in life truly are burdens, and you need the body of Christ to come alongside you. But other things are loads, and you must take ownership for them. You cannot outsource your discipleship. No one can trust God on your behalf. No one can crucify your flesh for you. No one can walk in the Spirit, repent, develop habits of grace, or cultivate godliness for you. Those are your load—your backpack.

A gospel community becomes healthy and vibrant when everyone embraces this truth. When every believer carries the load God has entrusted to them—serving according to their gifts, being faithful with their time, cultivating their walk with Christ—everything flourishes. Needs are met. Ministry is shared. No one person is crushed or burned out, because everyone is contributing. Small acts of faithfulness spread across many shoulders create a church marked by joy, energy, and life.

Grace creates this dynamic. Grace produces humility—the recognition that “I need others to help me carry what I cannot carry alone.” But grace also produces maturity—the resolve that “I will take responsibility for what God has entrusted to me.” When those two things meet, the church becomes a place of both deep compassion and strong character, a community where burdens are shared and loads are carried, all under the power of the Spirit.

Paul makes an interesting statement in verse 6: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.” A healthy, growing church that is faithfully being taught the Word of God should be generous to the one who teaches. This is a mark of a healthy, maturing church.

In a day and time when many have grown suspicious of pastors and don’t trust the church, this verse can be difficult to read. While there are a number of high-profile pastors who are not worthy of trust, the majority of pastors labor week in and week out to study the Word of God and to preach it faithfully. They are deserving of your generosity.

Take a moment to answer the following questions:

- *Where do you sense the difference between a “burden” and a “load” in your own life right now?*
- *What is one burden you need to invite others into, and what is one load you need to take fresh responsibility for?*

Sow to the Spirit, Not the Flesh (v. 7-8)

This is the heart of the passage. Paul says your life is like a field. Every day you are sowing seeds—through your habits, affections, choices, practices. You are always sowing to one of two fields:

A. Sowing to the flesh

This means feeding the desires of the sinful nature. It might look respectable on the outside—busyness, success, image—but it's powered by self-rule. Paul says if you sow to the flesh, you will reap "corruption." Things fall apart. There is decay. Your soul begins to rot because you were not made to live without God.

B. Sowing to the Spirit

This means intentionally cultivating the Spirit's work: time in the Word, prayerful dependence, repentance, worship, generosity, community, obedience. You are not earning anything. You are simply placing yourself where the Spirit produces life. Sowing is small, daily actions that, over time, form a harvest. You rarely reap in the same season you sow. But you always reap in the direction you sow. As one pastor said: "The habits you build today are the harvest you will eat tomorrow."

Take a moment to answer the following questions:

- *Paul says we are always sowing—to the flesh or to the Spirit. What are some small, daily "seeds" (habits, attitudes, choices) that you find yourself sowing, and what kind of harvest are those seeds producing in your life right now?*
- *Sowing to the flesh isn't always obvious—it can look respectable (busyness, image, success). What are some "respectable" patterns that may actually be feeding the flesh? How can we discern the difference between healthy responsibility and self-powered living?*
- *Sowing to the Spirit is slow, steady, and often unseen. Which practices help you place yourself where the Spirit can produce life—Word, prayer, repentance, community—and which one do you want to intentionally cultivate more this week?*

Do Good Without Giving Up (v. 9-10)

Paul ends with encouragement: "Let us not grow weary..." Why does he say that? Because we do grow weary. Doing good is costly. Bearing burdens is exhausting. Restoring sinners is messy. Sowing to the Spirit takes time. Persevering in faith feels slow. Loving difficult people is draining. But Paul says: "In due season we will reap, if we do not give up." There is a harvest coming. Every seed of obedience matters. Every act of unseen faithfulness counts. Every quiet repentance, every whispered prayer, every step of obedience—none of it is wasted.

And then Paul widens the circle: "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Christians should be the most relentlessly kind people in the world—not because we're trying to impress God, but because God has been relentlessly kind to us in Christ.

Take a moment to answer the following questions:

- *Where do you personally feel the most "weary" in doing good right now—bearing burdens, loving difficult people, sowing to the Spirit, or persevering in faith? What makes that specific area so draining?*
- *Paul promises a future harvest "if we do not give up." How does this promise reshape the way you view small acts of unseen faithfulness in your daily life?*
- *Paul says to "do good to everyone, especially to the household of faith." What opportunities do you currently have—big or small—to practice intentional kindness toward both believers and unbelievers?*

JESUS, OUR BURDEN-BEARER

Galatians 6 is not ultimately about our effort. It's about what Jesus has done. He restored us when we were broken. He carried the burden we could never carry. He took responsibility for our sin by dying in our place. He sowed perfectly to the Spirit, reaping eternal life. He persevered without giving up—even to the cross.

Because of Jesus, the Spirit now lives in us.

Because of Jesus, we are free to restore the fallen.

Because of Jesus, we carry one another's burdens.

Because of Jesus, we sow to the Spirit.

Because of Jesus, we do good without giving up.

This is the gospel culture Paul wants for the church. A Spirit-filled, burden-carrying, grace-driven family.

JESUS + Nothing = A transformed community.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the gospel that restores us, carries us, and changes us. Jesus, You took our greatest burden, You restored us with gentleness, and You never gave up on us. Now, by Your Spirit, make us a people who do the same for one another.

Holy Spirit, form this gospel culture in us. Help us restore the fallen with grace, bear one another's burdens with compassion, and take responsibility for our own walk with You. Make us a relentlessly

kind church—not because we’re trying to impress You, but because You have been relentlessly kind to us in Jesus. Let this be a place of grace, a family shaped by the gospel, a community filled with the life of the Spirit. Teach us each day to sow to the Spirit, trusting that every small act of obedience matters.

And when we grow weary, remind us that a harvest is coming. Make us a community shaped by Your kindness, filled with Your Spirit, and empowered by Your love.

We pray this in the name of Jesus—our Restorer and Burden-Bearer. Amen.

6. MISSION

Have you ever wondered why God has you living in Fort Lauderdale? In Broward County? This is your mission field. It’s where God has called you to make His name known. I want to help you answer that call. It’s called the Great Commission, not the Great Suggestion. God is calling you. Who’s your PLUS one? Who is the one person God is calling you to share the Good News of the gospel with? Write their name down now. Don’t run from this assignment.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Here are 3 simple steps of obedience to answer God’s call to be on mission with Him:

- **Intercede** - Who is ONE person that you can be praying for that needs to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ?
- **Invest** - How can you invest in them relationally?
- **Invite** - Begin praying for courage to invite to them church.

Don’t say, “But God, you don’t know my neighbor.” Answer God’s call. Join Him in this great redemptive mission of rescuing sinners so that they may know the riches of God’s grace, mercy, and salvation.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRAYER

- What is one thing you need to remember from this lesson that you can apply to your life this week?

- How can your group pray for you personally?

- How can you pray for your group members

