

God's Free Family

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, you are born again—not just into eternal life, but into a family of faith. By simple faith in Jesus, you are forgiven and free. You're set free from the law and from the burden of trying to earn your way with God. Eternal life is given to you as a gift, and at the very same time, you're placed into the family of God.

Every Christian needs the family of God. We need encouragement, because discouragement will come. We need accountability, because we are prone to stumble. We need companionship, because we were not created for loneliness. We need joy, because joy multiplies when it is shared. And we need peace, because peace is strengthened in the company of fellow believers.

And here's the good news: in Christ, you already have that family. That's what Galatians 6 teaches us—

**WHEN YOU'RE FREE IN CHRIST, YOU
BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY.**

But here's the question: *How does God expect His family to live?* As a local church, if we're going to be the kind of family God calls us to be, what does He expect of us? Galatians 6 gives us the answer. It lays out six expectations for God's family. Because for a family to function well, every member matters, every member contributes, and every member has a part to play.

Expectation #1 - In God's family, we look out for each other (6:1–2).

Paul writes, *“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.”*

Like any family, God's family isn't perfect. We all stumble. But here's the good news: when we do, God has placed us in a family that can lift us back up. Paul doesn't tell us to push people down further or pile on guilt. No—he says, “restore them with gentleness.” What a hopeful word! Restoration is possible. Forgiveness is possible. Healing is possible. And notice

—the most spiritual, the most mature Christians, are those who want the best for their family in Christ.

Paul does warn, “keep watch on yourself.” No matter how mature we become, we still have a sinful nature. Every believer is capable of falling into jealousy, anger, selfishness, gossip, pride—even false teaching. But when that happens, what a blessing to have brothers and sisters who will come alongside us—not to condemn us—but to help us back on our feet.

Expectation #2 - In God’s family, we take responsibility for ourselves (6:3–5).

In God’s family, we are our brother’s keeper. But at the same time, each of us is responsible for our own lives before the Lord. That means we can’t blame others for our lack of spiritual growth. From the beginning, human nature has wanted to do that. In the Garden of Eden, Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and no one wanted to own up. But God wanted them to take responsibility for themselves. The same is true for us.

Paul doesn't leave us there in discouragement, though. He calls us to something better: a life of personal growth in Christ. He writes, *"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."*

Family isn't about competing with one another; it's about belonging to one another. God doesn't measure your life by how you stack up against someone else. He measures your life by how you're becoming more like Jesus.

Expectation #3 - In God's family, we support those who teach us God's Word (6:6–8).

When a local church has someone who faithfully opens the Bible and teaches what it actually says—not their own opinions but God's truth—that church family is expected to good care of him.

"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. Whatever a person sows, that he

will also reap. The one who sows to his flesh will reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

If you've ever given to a gospel of grace preaching church where someone believed in Jesus for eternal life through that church, then in a real sense your giving helped sow into an eternal harvest.

Expectation #4 - In God's family, we persevere in doing good (6:9–10).

We often get discouraged when we don't see quick results. You may invest financially in your church, but growth doesn't come overnight. You may invest in people—befriending them, caring for them, inviting them to church—but sometimes all you see is hard soil being turned, but no fruit being harvested. That's why Paul encourages us in verses 9–10:

“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.”

Paul's message is simple: don't give up. God will not let the good things you do for others go to waste.

Expectation #5 - In God's family, we reject religious hypocrisy (6:11–13).

Empty religion, false teaching, and counterfeit gospels always produce hypocrisy. On the outside, people caught in works-based religion can look big, impressive, and spiritual. But on the inside, many are afraid of being persecuted for the cross of Christ. And deep down, they know they don't measure up to the very standards they demand from others. Yet, they still put on a show.

That's hypocrisy at its finest—and Paul exposes it in verses 11–13:

“See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.”

Expectation #6 - In God's family, we boast only in the cross of Christ (6:14–18).

Our calling is not to boast in what we do. Not in how spiritual we think we are, how much we give, how many people attend our church, or how many ministries we run. Paul says there is only one thing worth boasting about: **the cross of Jesus Christ**. Why? Because on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.

“Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.”

It all comes down to grace. Grace that saves us. Grace that frees us. Grace that holds us secure in Christ.