

Love Does

1-11-26 – Mark McCartin

Gal 6:1-10

I. Adding to the Gospel Subtracts from the Gospel

Gal 1:4,6-10; Rom 3:25-26; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph:8-9

II. True Christian Freedom

Gal 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free... Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a **yoke of slavery*** ("Run Run the Law Demands...")

Gal 5:13a *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to **indulge the flesh***; (Eph 2:1-5)

Gal 5:16-17 *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ἐπιθυμία / epithymia)*
¹⁷ *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that **you are not to do whatever**^[fn] **you want**.* (NIV = prescriptive / command)

... "to keep you from doing the things you want to do"
(ESV = descriptive = describing the effect of this tug of war c.f. Romans 7-8)

Rom 8: ¹*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ...* ³*For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.* ⁴*in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Gal 6:7-8

- What are some everyday examples of planting "to the Spirit" (making choices that honor God) versus planting "to the flesh" (following sinful or selfish desires)?
- How do our small daily choices eventually lead to consequences or "harvests" in our lives?

Gal 6:9

- What are some things that cause people to grow weary or discouraged in doing good?
- Have you ever felt like giving up because doing the right thing was hard or unappreciated?
- What promise does this verse give to motivate us to keep going? Share something that has helped you persevere, and how we can encourage each other not to lose heart.

Gal 6:10

- What are some practical ways you can do good to people around you whenever you have the chance?
- How can we as a group (or church) show care and love "especially" to fellow believers in our church family?
- Why do you think it's important to take care of our spiritual brothers and sisters, and how can we also reach out and do good for our neighbors **outside** the church?

Gal 6:14

- What do you think it means to "boast in the cross" and not in ourselves? What are some things people tend to boast in or rely on (for their identity, pride, or hope) besides Jesus?
- How does focusing on what Jesus did for you on the cross keep you humble and thankful?
- Take a moment to reflect: in light of all we've discussed from Galatians 6:1-10, how would boasting only in Jesus and His cross change the way you view yourself and the way you treat others?

Living by the Spirit's Power (**Personal Application**): Think about your life – what kind of "seeds" are you sowing through your habits, words, and priorities? Are there areas where you've been sowing to please your own desires instead of sowing to please God's Spirit? What is one change you could make to start sowing to the Spirit in that area? How can you rely on the Holy Spirit's power (and not just your own effort) to make this change?

REFLECT / DISCUSS

III. The Law of Love

Gal 5:13-14 *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

IV. Grace Driven Community

Love Does (Carries, Restores, Preservers)
Gal 6:1-10

Gal 5:17 (ESV – NLT)

- Have you ever assumed that struggle meant something was wrong with your faith? Why do you think we make that assumption?
- How does seeing this verse as descriptive rather than prescriptive change how you hear it?

Gal 6:1

- What might it look like to restore a friend with gentleness instead of harsh judgment?
- Think of a time someone messed up – how could you approach them with forgiveness and humility, remembering how God has shown you grace?

Gal 6:2

- In practical terms, how can we help carry the burdens or struggles of people around us? Share any examples you've seen or experienced of someone helping carry your burden (or you carrying theirs).
- What are some reasons we might hide our struggles or avoid asking others for help.
- How does the gospel – knowing Jesus forgives you and removes your shame – encourage you to be more open about your needs and weaknesses?

Gal 6:3

- Why is humility important when we're helping someone who has sinned or is struggling?
- How can feeling spiritually superior or comparing ourselves to others damage relationships?
- In what ways does remembering "I'm a sinner saved by grace, too" help us correct or support others with a humble attitude?
- How do we balance carrying each other's burdens (6:1) with the reminder that "*each one should carry their own load*" (6:5)? In other words, what is the difference between helping someone with a burden that is too heavy and each person taking responsibility for their own day-to-day duties or choices?
- How can we tell when to step in and help someone versus when to encourage them to carry their own load?
- Share your thoughts or an example of finding that balance.