

Galatians 6-1-18
Sowing to the Spirit

I. Review: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:24-26

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by (keep in step with) the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

1. Our crucifixion with Christ is a spiritual fact, or a positional truth. Now, we must “walk by faith” in the spiritual fact. Galatians 2:20
2. Our co-crucifixion with Christ also ushers in our new life in resurrection (Romans 6:4-5, 11).
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
4. This fact of new life is stated in the first part of verse 25: “If we live by the Spirit.”
5. The second part of the verse gives a command: “let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”
6. The Greek verb here translated “keep in step” is different from the earlier word used in verse 16 to “walk by the Spirit. The idea of this “keeping in step” is to walk in a line in a very orderly manner. The verb was used of soldiers marching in a row, but not exclusively used in this way. It means a close following of the Spirit’s guidance.
7. In verse 26 Paul is concerned that if the Galatian believers do not follow the command to keep in step with the Spirit, then they will disintegrate into a group of boastful, self-seeking people who care nothing for one another.
8. This would be the opposite of what the goal is for them: “through love serve one another” (v.13).
9. Unfortunately, this is often the fruit of legalism. It makes one proud, self-seeking, critical and combative. Such behavior is utterly opposed to the fruit of the Spirit.

II. Bear one another’s burdens - Galatians 6:1-5

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load.

1. The Greek word for trespass is *paraptoma* (wrong doing) side slip, fall, fault, offense. More of a one time act. Not a habitual act.
2. You who are spiritual-more spiritually mature Christian. One whose life bears the fruit of the Spirit because he or she walks by the Spirit regularly. Gentleness being a fruit of the Spirit.
3. With humility, understanding they could fall as well.
4. The Greek word for restore is *katartizo* (to mend or repair) refers to mend what has been broken or torn.
5. By bearing one another’s burdens we fulfill that law of Christ. John 13:34
6. Questions to class: Why don’t some believers help bear other believers’ burdens?
7. How do we view ourselves? Do we understand Christ in us the hope of Glory? Colossians 1:27
8. Examine our own work-For a believer to “test his own work” means that he places himself willingly and humbly under God’s enlightenment, open to hear His approval or correction.
9. True self examination is not merely taking one’s spiritual pulse beat on a regular basis but rather submitting one’s thoughts, attitudes, and actions to the will of God and the mind of Christ revealed in Scripture.
10. In verse 5 for each to bear his own load was commonly used of a soldier’s pack and thus it is fitting to speak of each one bearing his own load. Verse 5 is speaking of the responsibility of each believer to live uprightly and to carry out his assigned ministry before God. Ephesians 2:10

III. Sowing to the Spirit - Galatians 6:6-10

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 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. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

1. Are we sharing ALL good things with the one who teaches us? Not just money, but spiritual things as well.
2. You can't fool God. Notice Paul uses the word "will". You will receive corruption or eternal life.
3. What does it look like to sow to our flesh?
4. What does it look like to sow to the Spirit?
5. When a believer sows to the flesh he aims to gratify the "desires of the flesh," and conversely, when he sows to the Spirit he aims to gratify the "desires of the Spirit."
6. We should keep in mind that the flesh in Galatians is not marked simply by the ugly deeds of the flesh, but also by the effort of the flesh (self effort) to live up to some standard for God's approval. Or to try and perfect ourselves in our flesh.
7. The thought in verse 10 is to continue to walk in the Spirit and you won't lose heart in doing good and in due time will reap if we don't grow weary. Are we dependent on the Spirit for strength and power to continue on walking?
8. If we are being controlled by the Spirit we will do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of the faith. There are good works which God, in His foreknowledge and sovereignty has prepared for each believer to walk in. These are not good works that we just dream up on our own and set about doing them. Ephesians 2:10

IV. The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ - Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

1. Do we understand and believe that through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have been crucified to the world? What does it look like to be crucified to the world? Those who desire to make a good showing in their flesh.
2. Conformity not Transformation. They were working from the outside in. It doesn't work. God is changing us from the inside out.

What are your big take-aways from Paul's letter to the Galatians?

Excerpts have been taken from Galatians Commentary by Thomas Finley and from galatians notes of Tom Constable.