

# **Mercy & Mess**

**\*All Bible verses are in the *English Standard Version (ESV)* unless otherwise indicated\***

**Sin** is any thought, desire, word, or action in which we put ourselves in God's place, rebel against His holy will and fall short of His perfect standard of holiness.

- All sin is ultimately against God
- Can also be against people.
- It entered the world through rebellion.
- Genesis – Adam & Eve

Paul's letter to the Galatians:

- Galatia was a relatively new church that Paul planted.
- After Paul left problems crept in.
- False Teachers

- Sin
- Legalism

**Galatians 6:1** 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.

- Familial language.
- Vertical Relationship— us and God
- Horizontal Relationship – us and people.
- Restore does not mean excuse.
- Gentleness does not mean compromise.
- Mercy does not mean pretending sin is insignificant.
- It means we deal with brokenness in a way that reflects the heart of Christ.

**Galatians 6:2-5** 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.

- People can be burden givers or burden lifters.
- Legalistic, religious - burdens you “heavy load”
- Jesus – “come to me weary heavy laden, my burden is light”.
- Burden Lifters – “Bear one another’s burdens” Things too heavy for us to carry alone.
- “Bear his own load” – we still have to carry things.
- We are ultimately responsible for our loads.

**Galatians 6:6** Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

**Galatians 6:7-8** 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.

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

- Moses needed help leading the Israelites.
- Elijah got depressed after God did a big miracle.
- Jesus told the 12 disciples to withdraw and rest.
- Jesus went to the garden to pray because he was overwhelmed.
- The command is not: “Never feel tired.”
- The command is: “Do not give up because you are tired.”

**Hebrews 12:1-3** 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.