

Galatians

Salvation by grace! Justification by faith! Sanctification by faith!

Galatians 6 - The Spirit Walk in Practice

- Verses 1 – In relation to sinning Christians
- Verses 2-5 – In relation to burdened Christians
- Verses 6-10 – In relation to giving

Verses 1 – In relation to sinning Christians

- “if” – 3rd class, meaning that it is a future possibility
- “caught” – ‘to be surprised, overtaken, or caught off guard’
- “trespass” – ‘a false stop, or stumbling’
- “spiritual” – those who are walking by the Spirit
- “restore” – elsewhere refers to mending nets, or setting a fractured bone
- “in a spirit of gentleness” – in grace as opposed to law
- “looking to yourself” – to watch carefully
- “lest you too be tempted” – because of trusting self (flesh) instead of walking by the Spirit

Verses 2-5 – In relation to burdened Christians

Verse 2

“burdens” – burdens of a grievous nature, crushing burdens as contrasted with normal burdens

“the law of Christ” – The command of Jesus for His disciples to practice mutual love

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” John 15:12

Verse 3

“if anyone thinks he is something...”

Legalism fosters self-conceit and often sees oppressive burdens as deserved judgments; so, instead of ‘lending a hand,’ the legalist turns away. Instead of reaching out, he withdraws. Instead of expressing love, he judges the oppressed brother or sister.

Verse 4

“let each one examine his own work...”

The only grounds for boasting is God’s amazing grace!

Comparing ourselves with others is self deceiving and a symptom of walking in the flesh.

Verse 5

“load” – ‘a regular load’, ‘a military pack’. This speaks of the regular daily burdens of life. Jesus uses this word in Matthew 11:30 in relationship to discipleship.

Verses 6-10 – In relation to giving

- Verse 6 – In relation to teachers
- Verses 7-8 – The principle of sowing and reaping
- Verse 9 – Endurance in view of the harvest
- Verse 10 – In relation to opportunity

Concluding remarks:

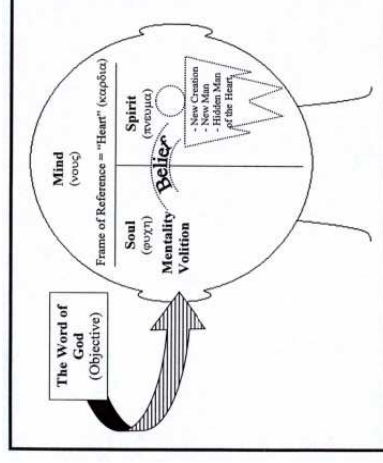
Verse 11 – Paul’s personal touch

Verses 12-13 – The fleshly ministry of legalists

1. Misdirected desire – To impress with outward signs or symbols.
2. Pressure tactics – Pressure to get an outward confession or act.
3. Hidden motivation – To avoid the stigma of the cross.
4. Inconsistent practice – They demanded what they could not do.
5. Foolish boast in fleshly things – Getting Gentile converts to subscribe to Mosaic Law glorified the Judaizers in the eyes of their Jewish friends.

Verses 14-17 – The cross-centered ministry

1. The focus of the cross – The cross is the center of God’s redemptive plan.
2. The effectiveness of the cross – We are sanctified through the cross.
3. The contextual reason for the cross – Rituals are nothing compared to the new creation empowered by the Holy Spirit.



When we believe in Jesus Christ our spirit is made alive and we are a ‘new creation’. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in the new creation and our Christian life begins. The Word of God is essential for the growth of the ‘new man’. As we learn the Word of God, the Spirit of God will make the Word our frame of reference so that we can face life from a divine viewpoint.

(Illustration from Ron Merryman, *Galatians*)

4. The application of the principle

“brand-marks” – Greek = *stigmata*

Paul’s physical scars spoke dramatically of his devotion and loyalty to Christ in a way that the Law (circumcision) never could.
Acts 14:19-20 – Paul was stoned in Galatia.

Verse 18 – Grace is our treasure

We are justified by grace!
We are sanctified by grace!
We will be glorified by grace!