

There Is One Gospel - Week 10

Galatians 6:1-10

Pastor Matt Dean

We are wrapping up our series in Galatians next week and we are in the Apostle Paul's closing remarks – for the last few months we have been reminded THERE IS ONE GOSPEL – the proclamation of what Jesus has done for us, and what it means to trust HIM; what does it mean to be justified by faith in Christ, how we are to live by faith in Jesus – the One who loves us and has given HIMSELF for us. We see how we are now children of God who are to relate to God as our perfect FATHER, confident in the work of Christ to make us right with God. We know what it means to walk by the Spirit – and how dangerous it is to live according to our own broken desires, emotions, and decisions. This relationship is a walk of faith, keeping in step with the Holy Spirit as we love one another and as we love our neighbor as ourselves. Today's scripture – is so very practical – but also where so often we can struggle, sin, and hurt one another.

Bear One Another's Burdens

6 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. **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.

6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. **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. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

(Ga 6:1–10)

Bear One Another's Burdens

6 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.

Two clear ideas: Be gentle. Stay humble.

There is a difference between Christians embracing a lifestyle of sin and when Christians sin. Patterns of behavior or making a practice of sinning – this is different from an instance of sin. There is a difference between walking in the light vs walking in darkness.

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness** (1 Jn 1:6–9)

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ **so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.** ⁸ **So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.** ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. (2 Co 2:5–9)

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that **whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.** (Jas 5:19–20)

² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

This is an authentic gospel community description – of what it looks like to come alongside one another in our times of need. This is why we have community groups, this is why we prioritize relationships in this church.

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, **admonish** the idle, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, **be patient** with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to **do good** to one another and to everyone. (1 Th 5:14–15)

²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 Jn 4:21)

What does this look like in your life?

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.

Practically, Paul is reminding the church – be humble and take personal responsibility!

⁵ Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Co 13:5)

We know that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So what does it mean to be humble before God and examine our lives in an appropriate light?

Charles Spurgeon once said, “Any practice that detracts from faith is an evil practice, but especially that kind of self-examination which would take us away from the foot of the cross proceeds in a wrong direction.”¹

Robert Murray M’Cheyne famously said, “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”²

An article³ I read this week was on the difference between healthy and unhealthy introspection in light of the gospel – and this pastor made four points: “the gospel brings proportion to our examination, the gospel brings pardon to our examination, the gospel brings perception to our examination, and the gospel brings power to our examination”

In other words – when we examine our lives – we must do so through the lens of the work and person of Christ. It’s there that we see our sin, but also his sufficient pardon, it’s there we understand God’s love for us even while we were still sinners, it’s there we understand who we are in Him as new creations in Christ STILL being sanctified, it’s there we remember His commitment to transform our lives as we walk in obedience to Him.

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

Paul had to remind this church to pay its pastors – and thankfully that is not our issue here today. Generosity is a mutual commitment that followers of Christ participate in. This is what WE are called to do together.

The greater context is that generosity is evidence of God’s grace at work in our lives and points to why we prioritize our giving, how our mutual support of a local church matters and what it means to practice joyful generosity.

It is worth saying that I am so grateful to serve this church. We are so well cared for and I am beyond grateful for how we are able to care for one another, work hard alongside one another, and see how God is at work in and through our lives together.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life (1 Ti 6:17–19)

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/self-examination-speaks-a-thousand-lies>

² ibid

³ ibid

We set our hopes on God. We are to DO good. BE RICH in good works. BE generous. Be READY to share = storing up treasure + taking hold of that which is TRULY LIFE.

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Co 9:6–8)

The principle of sowing and reaping is throughout the Bible. Before you “decide in your heart” make certain that your heart is right before God and those impacted by your giving.

Don’t confuse your selfishness and the idol of money with reluctance.

Don’t confuse being under compulsion with being under conviction about Biblical generosity.

Jesus says where your heart is – there is your treasure.

God does love cheerful giving – because God loves you.

And if you know God loves you – then generosity isn’t drudgery, but an opportunity to trust God and see God all the more as the One who provides for you.

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.

This is true – and what we talked about last week – when we set our minds on the Spirit – we have life and peace, but when we walk according to our flesh, we experience sin, shame, and guilt.

What are the traps in your own soul? What are your triggers?

Where is the hurt in your life that leads you towards sin?

How much does bitterness have a stronghold in your life?

How are you enabling your flesh to feel in control through your unforgiveness?

How much idle time do you need before the lure of lust calls your name?

How easy is it for you to pull away and ignore people in your life because you are selfish?

Where does your pride show up when you feel entitled to something?

The list goes on.... And we reap what we sow.

But how good is it when we, even in pain, choose to say YES in forgiveness.

How good is it when we deny our flesh and choose purity or integrity or honesty?

How good is it when we don’t react in sin but do respond in love?

How good is it when we practice self-control instead of self-indulgence?

How good is it when we love graciously?

How good it it when we actually are kind to people?

The list goes on... and we reap what we sow.

John Stott wisely said, “Some Christians sow to the flesh every day and wonder why they don’t reap holiness. Holiness IS a harvest; whether we reap it or not depends almost entirely on what and where we sow.”⁴

Martin Lloyd Jones “We need to look ahead, to anticipate, to look forward to the eternal glories gleaming afar. The Christian life is a tasting of the first-fruits of that great harvest which is to come... Go on with your task whatever your feelings, keep on with your work, God will give the increase. He will send the rain of His gracious mercies as we need it. There WILL be an abundant harvest. Look forward to it– YOU WILL REAP.”⁵

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

A friend of mine who is a member of our church called me the other day just to say thank you, to encourage me, and to ask how he could pray for me. He calls me his pastor – but he pastored me. Can I tell you what a gift that is – and can I tell you that our staff team really does work hard to serve this church, and small words of encouragement go so far in our hearts.

It’s humbling – and sometimes hard to do, but if you need care or encouragement, tell someone. If you are feeling weary of doing good – don’t be weary alone, tell someone. If God puts someone on your heart, pray for them.

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

(1 Th 5:15)

Who can you bless today?

Who can you serve today?

What is the good you can choose to do for someone?

What will you do for someone else in our church in the name of Jesus?

Here’s what we are walking away with because THERE IS ONE GOSPEL:

- Be humble.
- Restore others gently.
- Keep bearing one another’s burdens.
- Take personal responsibility.
- Practice joyful generosity towards the Church.
- We reap what we sow.
- Keep doing good, especially to fellow followers of Jesus.

⁴ The Message of Galatians, John Stott, p135

⁵ Galatians, Todd Wilson, p218