

## Paul's Letter to the Galatians Galatians 5:13-6:18

*Paul is writing to correct a gospel distortion in the Galatian community of Jesus-loyalists:*

1. The gospel comes from divine authority.
2. The gospel forms a new community.
3. The gospel entails rescue and responsibility.

### Galatians 1:3 CSB

***Grace** to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age...*

### Galatians 6:18 CSB

*Brothers and sisters, the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

**Grace** (χάρις, *charis*) → "Gift"

### Galatians 1:3-4a CSB

***Grace** to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age...*

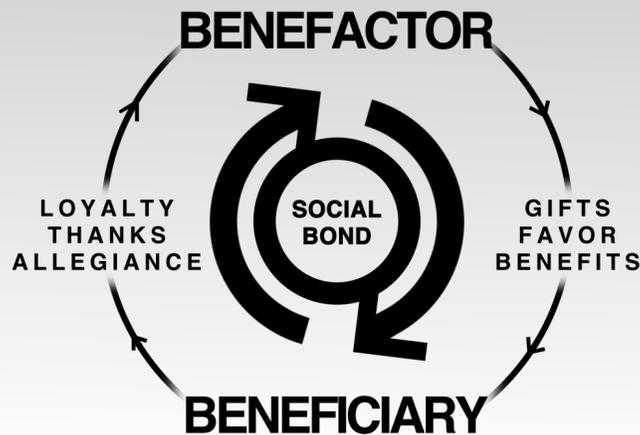
### Galatians 2:20-21 CSB

*I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the **grace** of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.*

**God's grace** → **The Christ-Gift**

**Ancient Gift-Giving:**

## ***The Reciprocity of the Gift in the Ancient World***



### Galatians 5:13- 26 CSB

*For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another. I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. 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 keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

***Living by the flesh or living by the Spirit has to do with communal life***

**Reciprocity of Grace in Paul:**

## **The Reciprocity of Grace in Paul's Letters**



### ***Living by the Spirit and Loving Well:***

1. We need to have the right expectations.
2. We need to exercise perseverance.

### Galatians 6:1-2 CSB

*Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

### Galatians 6:9-10 CSB

*Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.*

***No act of love is wasted, because every act of love is part of the world to come -  
God's new creation.***

### **Practice: Pray**

**Find time throughout the day to just ask the Spirit of God: where are you leading me to love today?**