

## Welcome/ Introduction

### Review of Galatians:

- Paul writes to the Galatians to clarify the importance of the true gospel and the danger of following “another gospel.”
- The gospel is spelled out in chapter one (v. 3-5):
- *“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

This is GREAT news!

So, the rest of the letter elaborates on the gospel:

- Chapter 1 – Paul’s Personal Experience with the Gospel
- Chapter 2 – The Gospel to the Gentiles
- Chapter 3 – The Gospel and the Law (Jews)
- Chapter 4 – The Gospel Reality of Freedom from the Law
- Chapter 5 – The Struggle between Freedom through the Gospel and the Flesh

Chapter six, then, is the application from his teaching. It’s the instruction from the gospel. Read the text: **Galatians 6:1-18**.

*Point: Through the gospel (and the freedom therein), all Christians are called to serve others by practicing gentleness and pursuing goodness.*

A misunderstanding from Galatians 1-5 – Christians are free from responsibility toward others. Paul has emphasized freedom from the law, but he has also highlighted bondage to the law of Christ (v. 2: *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”*). Christians are free from the requirements of the law in that they have received God’s forgiveness and the guarantee of eternal life, but, in light of eternal life, they are now compelled by the grace of God through Jesus to love others.

This can happen two ways: 1. Practicing Gentleness, and; 2. Pursuing Goodness.

This sounds so simple, but remember the charge to *“walk by the Spirit”* (5:16)

- He begins by addressing them as *“Brothers”* (6:1).
- There is a difference in our ability because of our submission to the Spirit of God. That’s really the command here: let the Spirit accomplish in you a sort of radical gentleness toward others.

### **(GENTLENESS)**

*“Radical Gentleness? Isn’t gentleness just being kind and tender?”*

Gentleness, as described by Paul, is only possible by the Spirit. It's literally a "fruit of the Spirit" (5:22-23). It's the sort of gentleness that characterized the life and ministry of Jesus (Matthew 11:29).

Read **Galatians 6:1-5**. Gentleness towards others, as the Spirit leads, is a depiction of God's work in our lives through the gospel.

**UNLIMITED** (1a: "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.")

**HUMBLING** (1b, 3, 4: "Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted... For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.")

**SACRIFICIAL** (2a: "Bear one another's burdens")

**ETERNAL** (2, 5: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ... For each will have to bear his own load.")

Gospel-Applied gentleness has a greater aim and is only possible through the work of the Spirit. We look to apply gentleness *whenever* we find someone in sin.

There's also something to be applied in our lives.

## (GOODNESS)

Gentleness is a *reflection* of the gospel and goodness is a *reward* of the gospel.

He gives us a principle (v. 7): "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

- This is not Karma... No account for the grace of God or His sovereignty.
- It is a reminder that our decisions and actions have consequences.

Equation (v. 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.":

- Sow to the flesh... reap the things of the flesh (destruction).
- Sow to the Spirit... reap the things of the Spirit, namely eternal life (the things of God).

And here's the command (v. 9-10): "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Paul highlights the same themes as above:

**UNLIMITED**, "let us do good to everyone"

**HUMBLING** and **SACRIFICIAL**, "And let us not grow weary... if we do not give up."

**ETERNAL**, "for in due season we will reap... to those who are of the household of faith."

It's important what we believe because it impacts how we act, in our own lives and toward others. The gospel causes us to live radically different, even in the simple things (e.g. gentleness and goodness). In those things, we begin to act in accordance with the truth of the gospel, reflecting the themes of universality, humility, sacrifice, eternally-focused, etc.

Questions:

Are there people that you find hard to be gentle with? Why do you find it so difficult?

How well do you exhibit humility and sacrifice in your interaction with others? Explain.

How can you practice pursuing goodness? Who can keep you accountable?