

Graceful Behavior

Galatians Chapter 6

Ch. 1-2 Experience with Grace

Ch. 3-4 Doctrine of Grace

Ch. 5-6 Application of Grace

Gal 6:1

1) Graceful Behavior vs 1-10

Is restoring verse 1

Is assisting verse 2-5

Is doing good verse 6-10

1) Is Restoring

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- Paul is writing to the Christians "*Brethren*"
- Being "*caught in a trespass*" (overtaken-KJV) is not necessarily the picture of caught in the act as much as it is more "caught up in". The idea is that the person is not willfully practicing a particular sin but has made a poor decision and has sinned.
- "*You who are spiritual*" (those that have fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) are to restore.
- "*Restore*" in the Greek is *katartizō* and means to mend to an original condition. Used as a medical term in setting a fractured bone or a dislocated shoulder.
- "Gentleness" is more correctly translated in the KJV and NKJV. The word is *praotēs* which is one of the fruits of the Spirit that means meekness. To be humble not to humble.
- The humility is realizing that we ourselves can be "caught in a trespass" and if we are not careful we too could be tempted with this very same sin which we are counseling others.

Gal 6:2

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

2) Is Assisting

- As we look at this passage concerning "*bearing one another's burdens*" it is vital to recognize the focus is on what you can do for another, rather than what another can do for you.
- This isn't written for you to expect others to bear your burden. It is written so that you can expect to bear someone else's burden
- This is a simple command that illustrated God's Understanding and love towards us. God realizes that we all have burdens and that God does not intend for us to carry them alone.
- "*Fulfill the law of Christ*" This acts of compassion fulfills the law of Christ vs the Law of Moses. The Law of Christ lifts burdens. The Law of Moses imposes a burden.
Jesus said in **John 13:34-35** "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*"

Gal 6:3

For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- This is a definition of PRIDE - deceived in thinking you are something when you are nothing
- CAUTION: in one word but two applications PRIDE Both applications are self focused
 - 1) Pride that stifles ministry because bearing that burden in beneath you
 - 2) Pride that stifles receiving ministry given to relieve a burden
- "*nothing*" seems a harsh way of looking at ourselves. Paul is making a point in contrast to having pride.
 - Paul knows we are something special in Christ. In **Ephesians 2:10** "*We are His workmanship*" God's poem (*poiēma*) If it's God's work it isn't cheap or worthless.
 - Paul is attempting to make us see that we are to have a particular mindset. He writes it a different way in **Philippians 2:3-4** "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*"

DECEIVED –
How angry do
you get when
someone tries to
deceive you?
Do you have the
same intensity
when you
deceive
yourself?

How do we avoid this PRIDE?

Gal 6:4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have {reason for} boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

Gal 6:5 For each one will bear his own load.

- "**EACH ONE** must examine his own work" - we do this ourselves for ourselves. Other people are examining us, but it doesn't accomplish the good compared to examining ourselves and seeing the good or bad for ourselves.
- "Each one **MUST** examine his own work" - This isn't a suggestion. It is imperative. Much like you MUST breathe or you will die.
- "Each one must **EXAMINE** his own work" - (KJV-prove) to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.
- "Each one must examine **HIS OWN WORK**" -
 - 1) His own - this is not a comparison to one another. It is a comparison of each one's faithfulness to the WORK the Lord has put before him.
 - 2) Work - Every believer has something to do. This is not works for salvation, this is a work of obedience that assists the Body of Christ.
- The Result - each person can have satisfaction and confidence within himself and not need the acceptance and praise of other people.
 - Martin Luther on seeking praise of men "To preach the Gospel for praise is bad business, especially when people stop praising you. Find your praise in the testimony of a good conscience . . . For anybody to covet praise is foolish because the praise of men will be of no help to you in the hour of death . . . As it is, the praise of men stops when we die. Before the eternal Judge it is not praise that counts but your own conscience." (Guzik)
- "Each one will bear his own load" - In verse 2 it said to "bear one another's burden" here it says "bear his own load" Contradiction??
 - "Burden" (Gk *baros*) meaning trouble as a HEAVEY BURDEN. More than a man should carry.
 - "Load" (Gk *phortion*) meaning suitcase, cargo or backpack. That which is essential for the man to carry.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." When we stand before Christ at the judgment seat. We will stand with our own load. We cannot say the church failed here, or that a Christian didn't do that. We will stand before Christ answering for what we carried.

Gal 6:6

3) Is Doing Good

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches {him.}

- Two people in this verse. The one taught and the one who teaches.
- Paul instructs the one who is taught to "share all good things" with the teacher.
 - "Share" - it isn't a payment. It is more of a fellowship or partnership. It is a willingness.
 - "All Good Things" is at the least, but not restricted to financial
- Paul has similar instructions elsewhere:
 - 1 Corinthians 9:11 "If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?"
 - 1 Corinthians 9:14 "So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel." (where? Luke 10:2-8)
 - 1 Timothy 5:17-18 "The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages.""

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 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.

- “Don’t be foolish God will not be sneered at” or turn a nose up to. Paul is still in the context of doing good to teachers. To stick a nose in the air and say that isn’t for me to do is mocking God. He will not have it.
 - Many a man thinks that they can mock God and get away with it. In our time table it may appear this way. But do not be deceived ...GOD IS NOT MOCKED.
- Paul then explains the universal order of things “SOWING AND REAPING”.
 - Whatever kind of seed is planted, will determine the kind of fruit that is harvested.
 - Corn seed planted - Corn reaped
 - Wheat seed planted - Wheat reaped
 - Barley seed planted - Barley reaped
 - A Smile seed planted - A Smile reaped
- Sowing to the flesh - fleshly corruption is harvested (reaped)
- Sowing to the Spirit - eternal spiritual life is harvested (reaped)

Gal 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

- The farmer plants a seed. He must be patient. He must allow the planting to have a complete work. He must not “LOSE HEART” or ‘GROW WEARY” and quit on the good seed that was planted.
- “*In due time*” there will be a harvest
- Paul repeats himself. “*DO NOT GROW WEARY*” Don’t give up. The harvest is coming.
- 3 Laws of Sowing and Reaping
 - What is sown is what is reaped.
 - Reaping comes after sowing
 - More is reaped than what is sown
- So with all this truth about sowing and reaping and having patience and not losing heart, Paul says there is ample opportunity to DO GOOD!
 - To ALL people (believers and unbelievers)
 - Especially to the household of faith.

Gal 6:11

2) A Personal Note of Grace vs 11-18

See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

- Two views concerning Paul's conclusion:
 - Some teach that Paul has dictated this letter and signs the end because of an eye disease and for this reason he writes in large letters.
 - Some teach that this was a classical Greek form of writing, that a scribe or assistant wrote what was dictated and then Paul would personally write a note at the conclusion.
 - 1) 1 Corinthians 16:21-24 "The greeting is in my own hand--Paul..."
 - 2) Colossians 4:18 "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you."
 - 3) 2 Thessalonians 3:17 "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write."
- The important point is that Paul writes a message from his Heart.
 - Motives of Legalists
 - Motives of Paul
 - A Blessing

Gal 6:12

Motives of
Legalists

Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

Gal 6:13

For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.



Asimov



Bakunin



Nietzsche



Maher

- Paul tells the Galatians there are two reasons why these legalists "compel" them to be circumcised.
 - 1) Because they do not want to be persecuted for their beliefs (verse 12)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23 "we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"
 - These legalists knew that the Greeks thought Christians were stupid, ignorant, narrow minded, arrogant, fools. They didn't want those labels or that battle.
- Do People today think Christianity is Foolish?
- a. Isaac Asimov (biochemist, author, president of American Humanist Association) "Humanity has the stars in its future, and that future is too important to be lost under the burden of juvenile folly and ignorant superstition."
 - b. Mikhail Bakunin (anarchist) "All religions, with their gods, demigods, prophets, messiahs and saints, are the product of the fancy and credulity of men who have not yet reached the full development and complete personality of their intellectual powers."
 - c. Friedrich Nietzsche (philosopher) "In Christianity neither morality nor religion come into contact with reality at any point."
 - d. Bill Maher (political satirist) "I think flying planes into a building was a faith-based initiative. I think religion is a neurological disorder."

- Do you accept that fight? You need to.
 - a. Suppose you don't.

You will live in a sense of inferiority, confusion, and doubt. Out of these a fear of the unbeliever that will nurture a loathing for them. This type of Christian living will not lend itself to winning souls or discipling new believers
 - b. If you do.

You will develop confidence, boldness, a knowledge of scripture and world philosophies. From this place of strength you will have a love and compassion for the lost. This type of Christian living will win the lost and properly disciple new believers.

- 2) Because they will justify themselves by converts
- Paul being a Pharisee himself knew that the best of them were not keeping the law.
 - **Philippians 3:4-6** "although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."
 - **Romans 7:18-25** "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good {is} not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
 - Knowing they were not keeping the law themselves they justify themselves by recruiting others to join their deception. **They must be right, look how many people are following them.** How many followed Jesus to Calvary.
 - Remember **John 6:66** (6:66) after Jesus told the followers that they needed to eat the bread from heaven (His flesh) "From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him"
 - **Mark 14:50** "And they all left Him and fled."
 - Having numbers of people with you can give you a false security.
 - "A false sense of security is worse than a true sense of insecurity." - unknown

Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

- In contrast to the legalist, Paul:
 - 1) Would not Boast - in the number of converts or followers he had
 - 2) Would not avoid the Cross for fear of persecution - but would embrace and boast in the cross.
 - It wasn't pieces of wood that he would boast in but the work of salvation found there.
 - Spurgeon said "What did he mean, however, by the cross? Of course he cared nothing for the particular piece of wood to which those blessed hands and feet were nailed, for that was mere materialism, and has perished out of mind. He means the glorious doctrine of justification-free justification-through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ."
- "The world has been crucified to me and I to the world" - Again this is not the globe we call earth. But this is the rebellious anti-God system of belief and living that bills the heart of man.
 - **Is the world crucified to you and you to it?** Do you still desire the things or acceptance of the world. Do you still justify yourself by the approval of those who do not desire to know God. Perhaps you have not allowed the world to be crucified to you and you to it.
- The Summary of Galatians is "Circumcision/Uncircumcision is not anything important"
 - Those things of a legalist nature will not provide salvation. Only The Substitutionary Sacrifice of Jesus on the cross provides Salvation. Everything else is bondage and error.
- But a NEW CREATION is! (important)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
 - This is REGENERATION - Paul teaches that the believer is not merely forgiven but that he is a new creation, a new creation.
 - This new creation does not mean a perfect creature. It means that the believer is motivated and living by another source. Our righteousness no longer is achieved by external behavior but is imputed to us by an internal work of the Spirit of Christ.

Gal 6:16
A Blessing

And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy {be} upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

- To those who walk by the rule of the NEW CREATION peace and mercy are theirs.
- And on Israel. Paul desires this NEW CREATION for his people.

Gal 6:17

From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

- What causes trouble for Paul? False teachers? Possibly. Persecutions? Maybe.
- This could be Paul being the example for the believers in Galatia. He is no longer troubled by trying to achieve righteousness by his own merit. He is sold out to Jesus. His allegiance is in Jesus Christ.
- The "brand-marks" are his medals/awards which show him a soldier who has served his King. These are the scars and wounds that have marred his flesh during his ministry.
 - Who would question the bravery and honor of a highly decorated soldier.
 - Who would question the belief and dedication of a man who has served as Paul did.

Gal 6:18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

- In Galatians 1:6 Paul called the Galatians foolish for leaving He who called them by GRACE. Paul had rebuked, argued and scolded the Galatians.
- Paul closes by blessing them with the GRACE he has been talking about. Blessing them with the GRACE that is found only in Jesus by faith. Blessing them with the GRACE that not only forgive them and saves them and grants them entrance into heaven. But blesses them with the GREACE that makes old things gone and make them a NEW CREATION.
- AMEN - So Be It.

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