

“Carry Each Other’s Burden’s to Fulfill the Law of Christ”

Galatians 6:1-10 (vv. 2-3)

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

In the closing chapter 5, Paul has left us with contrasting the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, concluding that Christians are to live Spirit-led lives. But what does this mean to live a life with the fruit of the Spirit virtues?

In Chapter 6:1-10, the result is that of Paul sharing with us on how to use the most down-to-earth subjects – personal relationships (vs. 1-5) and doing good whenever the opportunity affords itself whether its finance or relationships (vs. 6-10) and we find ourselves measuring spirituality by action in these two areas. It is easy to talk about the fruit of the Spirit while doing very little about it. So as Christians, we need to learn that it is in the concrete situations, rather than in emotional highs, where the Holy Spirit can play a very real reality in how our lives/conduct are demonstrated. We are to go about doing good as we have opportunity, do good in sharing the Gospel, especially to those in the household of faith! Don’t allow ourselves to become fatigued/tired in doing good. Carry each other’s burdens to fulfill the law of Christ!

II. The Lesson: The Lesson: “Carry Each Other’s Burdens to Fulfill the Law of Christ” Galatians 6:1-10 (vv. 2-3)

These verses are general exhortations stressing mutual responsibility within the church on restoring transgressors of the law of Christ. This is a rule of the faith community as exemplified by Christ. This is the secret to getting along with each other. In dealing with others, we must learn how to get along with each other. Not everyone will think, act, and speak the way we want them to. But forgiving is part of what we are to be called to do as members of the body of Christ. We are all a work in progress. Everybody has some troublesome spots, and we simply must bear and endure. Help each other!

Burdens are used five ways in Scripture:

1. Any load carried by men or animals (Num. 4:15-19; 2-49; Jer. 17-21-27)
2. Responsibility (Ex. 18:22; Mt. 23:4; Gal.6:5; Rev. 2:24)
3. Cares of Life (Ps. 55:22; Gal. 6:2)
4. Bondage (Isa. 9::4; 10:27)
5. Oracle of judgment (Isa. 13:1; Nah. 1:1; Zech. 9:1-12:1; Mal. 1:1)

Life Point: Galatians 6:1-6 quickly reveals how we should respond to the weaknesses we observe in others. It sets forth the mental attitude we are to maintain within ourselves. We are to have a “holy fear” of pride and be very careful of judging others or of being critical of them. We must in other words, be extremely careful, save your critical comments for yourself. You might need forgiveness before the day’s out! Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. (MSG).

1. **v. 6:1. Gently Restore the One Caught in Sin**

Any trespass (fault) probably recalls the sinful “works of the flesh” (5:19-21). Overtaken/hit/fall) means to be caught off guard, perhaps at a vulnerable point. A believer devastated by sin needs to be approached with gentleness (5:23) by fellow believers. Those not controlled by the Holy Spirit would tend to boast by comparing themselves to the fallen believer. What are we to do? Do we overlook the sin? Does love mean that he is to refuse to face the facts? Paul shows us what to do... 1) restore. If the leg is broken, you straighten it out! To restore is exactly what Christian who are 2) genuinely led of the Spirit have maturity and have the desire to be! Also, we are to do it 3) gently!

1. **v. 6:2. Love Your Neighbor**

The law of Christ referred to here is probably the summation of the law: “Love your neighbor (5:14); Matt. 22::39; John 13:34,35). The term ‘fulfill’ suggests that choosing to 1) ‘bear’ another Christian’s burdens or restore another Christian from sin (v. 1) is precisely what Christ expects of all believers. The second practical thing is the bearing of one another’s burdens. Four times Paul uses ‘bearing’. We are to share one another’s burdens – to help whenever temptations oppress him or depress him. Have some mutual sympathy, if it must be a law, then it must be the law of Christ.

2. vv. 3-4. Each One Should Examine Himself/Herself

But listen, there may be two errors that would keep you from doing this. **Conceit/self-conceit is one, and the other is comparison.** Anyone who concludes that he is something special through comparison with those who seem to have fallen deceives himself. Instead of examining and judging others, a Christian should always examine his own work to see if he is following Christ's example. Do not exalt yourself as being above the fallen! Sympathize, show mercy and love, and do not brow-beat a fallen brother, and so fulfill (achieve/satisfy) the law of Christ. Thinking that you are something when you are nothing! ("I am doing better than they are, or I am unable to do anything, everyone else is much better"). To use others is an escape. Paul suggests that each believer has a task from the Lord and is responsible only to the Lord for doing it. A Christian should have their eyes on God rather than on other Christians, then in his own eyes he will at best be an unprofitable servant and God himself will receive glory.

3. v. 5. Carry Your Own Load

So, the duty of a Christian is to carry his own load. Bare, means (vs. 2) means "heavy burdens" – more than what we can carry. Everyone has their own "pack". Each Christian has his own work to do, so let him take pride in how he does it. One important way to bear other believers' burdens is to share in all good things, including financial support, with one who teaches God's word.

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. Don't turn up the nose at someone.

You Shall Reap What You Sow (verses 6-10)

These verses are the results of fleshy and spiritual living, which are two distinct destinies (5:19-26; Rom. 8:1-13). It is foolish to talk about reaping eternal life when one sows to the flesh. It is the same if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap spiritual harvest.

4. vv. 6-7. Who Should Care for the One Who Teaches God's Word?

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sow, that shall he also reap”. In the proper season, you will reap the harvest. *Eternal life is not earned by work. Rather, Paul is saying that everlasting life is the glorious end of those who follow the guidance of the Spirit.* Jesus said that He came so that we might have eternal life and have it more abundantly (John. 10:10). In this life through the indwelling of the Spirit, Christians are developing a capacity to experience Christ to the fullest in the life to come.

Though it sounds like Paul is thinking financially, (I believe) it does go beyond finances. This does encourage generous giving; it is apparent he collects funds so he can live and travel for the missionary godly work he is exercising. In essence, he is suggesting first, to support the teacher in his Christian teaching, but secondly, resources indicate the use of money to build up the life of the Spirit rather than to feed the flesh, and thirdly, the spending of money to help others, particularly Christians...it is proverbial...reaping is in proportion to sowing. *Thus, a man will get out of his effort what he puts in it.* Paul’s policy, even at that time, was apparently to preach the gospel without receiving money, preferring to earn his living as a tentmaker. To support the Lord’s servants is not a grim duty, though some congregations seem to treat it that way. Instead, Paul speaks of it as sharing; it is a “fellowship or a “partnership”. ***As the teacher shares the good things of the Word, the congregation is to share all good things with the teacher.***

Further, verse 7 is enlarged to speak of it as benevolence in general and is the principle to tie all things together. What a man sows he reaps...a man cannot fool God, for God looks at the heart of the work he/she sows.

5. v. 8. Eternal Life Awaits those Who Sows to Please the Spirit

This is true especially in Christian living. If a man spends his money on what gratifies his fleshy nature, he will reap a fleshy harvest. If it’s a sinful nature, it will reap destruction, the one who sows to please the Spirit, will reap eternal life. The flesh is mortal and will one day pass away, the harvest will pass away also. On the other hand, if a man uses his money to promote spiritual causes, the resulting harvest will remain. Paul is dealing with money and dealing with the spiritual character of the Christian. It is the principle of supporting the good spiritual harvest that will result in the use of time, the use of the mind, and other matters! It is a balance. As Christians, we are developing a capacity to experience Christ to the fullest in the life to come.

6. vv. 9-10. Let Us Not become weary in Doing Good

The great hindrance to such **good sowing** is weariness that results in discouragement and eventually to give up. Four months elapse between planting and harvest, and often the results take longer in spiritual sowing. The best reason for resisting “do not be weary” and “do not faint” is to become discouraged, but if it is for the **good**, the harvest is sure! As we can see, Apostle Paul is arguing at length to the Galatians and us...that works cannot “justify” or “sanctify” anyone. However, “**good**” works of the Gospel is an important fruit of the life of faith that God has planned for each believer (Eph. 2:8-10-being saved)!

“Therefore” indicates that this verse speaks of an important application of the spiritual process of sowing and reaping. Christians are not only to serve one another in love (see v. 2, 3; 5:13); they should also **do good** to non-Christians. It is an obligation by the grace of God to **do good** to all. Suppose in trying to **do good**, the Christian is limited financially in their resources. There are two parts – one is if they were non-Christians there would be no support anyway, but the good thing is that the Gospel is going forth – by teaching or preaching – and there is no limited to that.

The principle is not to get weary in doing good! The point is to plant in response to God through obedience, letting God’s spirit do the growth work in the believer and harvest a crop of real life, eternal life! Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers in the faith!

III. Conclusion

Humility allows us to be patient with other peoples’ mistakes. As we walk in the Spirit and pray for people, God will intervene and deal with their faults and ours! We reap what we sow; if we sow mercy, we will reap mercy when we need it. God’s power is at work within us, giving us grace that enables us to do right and “be right” by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a short, but powerful book in the Bible enabling us to have the strength of HIS Word to help us to go about doing good. AMEN!