

## **LOVING WELL TO THE END THE SUMMER OF FREEDOM SERIES**

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**TEXT: Galatians 6:1 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. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting regarding himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load.**

**Galatians 6:6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will 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 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 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.**

**Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 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. 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. 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. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.**

**Galatians 6:17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.**

**Galatians 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.**

**INTRO:** I want to remind everyone what I sensed the Lord say to me right before Easter, April 17: "We are entering into an epic season of transformation." We have had a flurry of victories of transformation. Most of the transformation has been accomplished in the courts. E.g., Masks on public transportation. Coach Joe

Kennedy's case. Boston city flag policy. School choice in Vermont. Vaccine mandates in a hospital in Maine and in the Marines.

I believe the darkness and shaking will continue, but God's glory will manifest in revival and reformation of society. More than ever, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. We need the grace of God in our lives and in the church.

The main truth that Paul conveys in Galatians is that the Christian life is all by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, which he calls the grace of God. It is by God's grace that we can do anything, especially love one another. So, we conclude that through His love, He wants us to love one another practically. This is the last chapter in Galatians. I want to talk about supernatural but practical love. Keep in mind that Paul closes out Galatians 5:15 with **"If we live by the spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."** It is **Zechariah 4:6** **"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,"** says the Lord of hosts!"

## I. BY HIS SPIRIT, LEARN HOW TO LOVINGLY CORRECT OTHERS

### A. WE MUST PRACTICE MATTHEW 18:15-17 IN THE SPIRIT OF GALATIANS 6:1

1. **Matthew 18:15** **"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."**
2. **Galatians 6:1** **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.**
3. A legalist would be like the Pharisees that dragged the woman who committed adultery to Jesus. But Paul is saying those who are spiritual or led by the Spirit will be gentle and restore, or align, the person into the Body of Christ. The Greek word "restore" is the word *katartizo*, which means to mend a broken bone (also found in Ephesians 4:12). The purpose is not to expose the other person but to restore them back into the Body of Christ.
4. What happens if this protocol is not followed? It seems that Paul didn't go to Peter or Barnabas "in private" when they were acting hypocritical by withdrawing from eating with the Gentiles when the Judaizers showed up.
5. Many reject the correction because the protocol was not exact. Maturity is asking the question, "What is the Holy Spirit trying to say to me?" After all, it is God who is correcting you. You need to humbly receive the word of the Lord. **Proverbs says, "Open rebuke is better than love that is concealed."**

6. But the purpose of this biblical mandate is to stop division in the church, especially through gossip and even slander.
7. If you are not part of the problem or solution, you should not be involved with the conversation.
8. You are not part of the problem: It has nothing to do with you. You are not part of the solution: You have no authority to speak into this situation. That is why I believe the best decision is to bring another pastor or leader, like a Life Group leader, into this situation, because pastors and delegated leaders have authority, and they can bring resolution to this problem.

## II. BY HIS SPIRIT, BLESS THOSE WHO TEACH GOD'S WORD AND PERSEVERE IN DOING GOOD

### A. BLESS THE LOCAL CHURCH WITH YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

1. **Galatians 6:6 The one who is taught the word is to share [*koinoneo* – fellowship] all good things with the one who teaches him. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will 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.**
2. From the very beginning of the formation of the Ekklesia, giving was an expression of love. Last week, Pastor Jay taught that to become Christlike, we must starve the flesh and feed our spirit. Paul is saying that as you give to the church, through your tithes and offerings, you are building your spirit man. By withholding your giving, you will be feeding the selfish flesh that tends to be stingy. You will reap more than finances: **“but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”** Beginning with an abundant life here on earth! The emphasis is more than paying the pastor well; it is the spiritual blessing that comes to the church.
3. **Jesus said, “For the laborer is worthy of his wages.” (Luke 10:7)**
4. **1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”**
5. We will be starting our Stewardship Series in October and bringing our firstfruits offering to HRC the first Sunday in December (December 4).

### B. PERSEVERE IN DOING GOOD

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

2. **“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” John Wesley**
3. I can’t think of a better modern-day example than praying for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Forty-nine years of praying, marching, voting, giving to the pro-life cause—and finally, on June 24, 2022, *Roe* is overturned!
4. Sometimes, your sowing doesn’t manifest in reaping in this lifetime. John Wesley was an abolitionist and a major revivalist in the first Great Awakening of 1738. He lived from 1703 to 1791. Slavery was abolished in Great Britain in 1833, 42 years after his death. Let us not grow weary in doing good. Let us continue to contend for revival and reformation!

### III. BY HIS SPIRIT, LET’S DO GOOD TO ALL BUT ESPECIALLY TO OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS

- A. **Galatians 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.
  1. We are to love everyone, but there seems to be a priority to love one another in the Ekklesia.
  2. Jesus said in **John 13:34** **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**
  3. **Galatians 5:14** **For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”**
  4. What is remarkable about this verse in Galatians 5:14, it is obvious that Paul is taking this verse from what Jesus taught in Matthew 22:37 and in the other Gospels. Galatians was the first and earliest letter of Paul. It tells us that Jesus’ teaching on loving God and loving others was the foundational teaching of Jesus in the early church.
  5. Paul emphasized this truth in **Galatians 5:13** **“You were called to freedom... but through love serve one another.”**
  6. We are to love our neighbors, but we must prioritize our immediate family. So also, we are to do good to all but especially the household of faith. What does it look like?
  7. How about giving believers our business before we give it to unbelievers?
  8. I go to Atouzo, a member of our church, for my haircut. I go to an Armenian believer, Coco, for my dry cleaning. My dentist is a Christian, a former member of HRC. I even like to go to In-N-Out and Chick-fil-A because they are owned by committed Christians.

9. We must be led by the Holy Spirit because He will sometimes call us to do business with unbelievers (“do good to all people”) to reach out to them with the gospel. For years I went to Biyoshi, a lost person, because I wanted to reach him with the gospel. He came to Christ, and the Lord led me to continue to go to his salon, and everyone in his salon came to Christ.

#### IV. BY HIS SPIRIT, LET US FOLLOW OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS AS THEY FOLLOW CHRIST

**A. Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 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. 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. 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. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.**

#### **B. CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER VS. A LEGALISTIC LEADER: GALATIANS 6:11-18**

##### **1. A SPIRITUAL LEADER LOVES THE CHURCH PERSONALLY:**

**Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.** Paul would usually close by signing the letter or the benediction of the letter and then his signature. He personally writes the last paragraph to make a point how much he loves them and cares about their spiritual well-being. I was accused by the NBC Today show for being a selfish pastor for not locking down the church and obeying the law. Of course, I love the church. I explained that I love the people wholistically. I don’t just care for them physically, but spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. That is why I am not closing the church. California and Newsom made a legal decision and not a spiritual one.

##### **2. A SPIRITUAL LEADER IS HUMBLE, BUT THE LEGALIST IS**

**PROUD: “Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh.” A humble leader will boast in the cross of Jesus: Galatians 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. A**

spiritual leader must know the Gospel and live out the Gospel. We are united with him not only by dying with Jesus on the cross, but we are raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places. As a result, we are heavenly minded and not worldly. The world has been crucified to us. **Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**3. A SPIRITUAL LEADER WALKS IN NEW CREATION REALITIES OF LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS: Galatians 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.** Paul says the same thing in **Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.** What we have as new creation in Christ is His supernatural love (Romans 5:5). I.e., Faith expressing itself through love. We are justified by faith, but our faith must be expressed through love or good works. But the love we have is supernatural. It is a change within our hearts. It is an inner working. That is why the new creation is being emphasized here.

**4. A SPIRITUAL LEADER WILL BE WILLING TO SUFFER PERSECUTION FOR JESUS: Galatians 6:17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.** Paul was stoned in Lystra (Acts 14:19), a city in Galatia. But God raised him from death or near death (“supposing he was dead...” Acts 14:14) Paul would eventually be executed by Nero through beheading. What a great man of God. In my opinion, he was the greatest saint to ever live. May we follow him, his writings, and his examples as he followed his Messiah, Jesus. **2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit which God has given us is not a spirit of cowardice, but one of power and of love and of sound judgement. (Weymouth)**

**“Beware of the leader who lives in his religious ivory tower and knows nothing of battling against the world, the flesh, and the devil, who has no ‘marks’ to show for his obedience to Christ. Paul was no armchair general; he was out in the front lines, waging war against sin, and taking his share of his suffering.” Warren Wiersbe**

**CONCLUSION:** So, Paul comes to the end of his letter, and he closes the way he began: **Galatians 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.** By grace we are saved, and by grace we are sanctified. Will you receive God’s grace by faith today? Let’s pray.