

Freedom – Work of Freedom in Community

Galatians 6:1-10

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

The Apostle Paul has been telling the Christians in the Galatian churches to live by the Spirit, walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, and stay in step with the Spirit. These four distinct verbs that Paul uses to designate the Spirit- controlled life of the believer are all pretty much the same in meaning. It is suggesting a “walk” that shows a relationship with the Spirit of God that impacts every aspect of life. There is a choice whether to live by the desires of the flesh or the desires of the Spirit. In Chapter 6 Paul points out what a community of believers would look like if they “walked” in the Spirit. It should be the practical response of a life of freedom for believers.

1. In verses 1-10 Paul has gotten very specific and practical about what he meant by walking in the Spirit. He encourages the Galatians to take hold of the freedom provided them by faith in Christ and that this freedom should be guided by love. Read Galatians 6:1. Have you ever had someone confront you about something that you should not have been doing or that was sinful? How did they confront and respond to you? How did you respond to them? Have you ever confronted someone else in their sin? What led you to do this or not do this? How did it go?
2. Paul calls the Galatians to confront these believers that have been caught in sin. How did he command them to do this? How and when should this be done? What will this confrontation do in our own lives? What precautions does Paul give for this confrontation? Why is this an important aspect of Christian community?
3. Galatians 6:2 calls us to carry each other’s burdens. Burdens are like heavy stones or rocks that we cannot lift alone. In vs. 5 the Scripture reads each will have to bear his own load. This “load” is equivalent to a “backpack” or handling their own responsibility. Not everything is a burden and not everything is a load. We can confuse these two and try to do everything on our own or take no responsibility. What are some examples of burdens and examples of loads? How are we to help carry other’s burdens? We must be willing to allow others to help us carry these burdens. Why do we not like to do this? Why is this so uncomfortable for us?
4. Verse 7 points out the famous divine law that “whatever we sow, so shall we reap.” It’s like planting in one of two fields, the flesh or the spirit. How do we see this play out today in the lives of believers? The way we talk, serve, give, and live all begins with sowing into one of these fields. Share your experience about sowing.

5. In v.3-5 Paul warns not to think too highly of oneself. When do you notice that pride is creeping into your life? When are you tempted the most to compare yourself to others? How do we combat this pride?
6. Paul warns the Galatians not to get weary in doing good. When do you find yourself getting weary in doing good? What can cause this? He tells us if we have opportunity to do good then we should do it. Where do you have the opportunity to do good today or this week?