

An Invitation and Calling:
Learning to Live in the Grace of Christ
September 16 – November 11 2012
“Helping One Another Sow to Please the Holy Spirit”
Study Helps: Week Eight of Nine
Galatians 6:1-10, Nov 4 2012

Focus for Week Eight

Over the last weeks, we have considered many dimensions of the invitation and calling God extends to all people to live in the grace of Christ. As we consider ways those who have entered this grace through Jesus might live in this grace of Christ, it is essential that we learn how the Holy Spirit helps us to help one another “sow to please the Holy Spirit” (Galatians 6:8). This is a difficult but essential process.

Summary of “Time of Reflection” and Message

1. Time of Reflection: **“Helping Brothers and Sisters” (i.e. Greek is “adelphoi”)**
 - It is not enough for us to “do our own thing” while ignoring the walk of one another. In order to begin to grasp this social responsibility, we looked at a few of the ten times that Paul refers to those he is writing as “brothers and sisters” (See Galatians 1:1,11; 3:15; 4:12,28, 31; 5:11,13; 6:1,18).
 - There IS a social responsibility we have to help one another live in the grace of Christ. Paul displayed this sense of responsibility to his brothers and sisters in Galatia. He taught, he modeled, he corrected. He provided this help by the Holy Spirit by whom he lived (6:1).

2. Summary of Message
 - **Four Words of Caution**
 - a. Helping another, while “living in the Spirit” (6:1) is **NOT easy**
 - b. **Must not separate** Galatians 6:1-10 from Galatians 1-5
 - c. Many miss a step: they are brought into grace through Jesus; they begin to walk in the Spirit; **the next step is NOT** to help another but to be attentive to brothers and sisters that the Holy Spirit uses to disciple/help us
 - d. **Danger to “silence”** the very people the Holy Spirit uses to correct us including spouses, children, and those that know us well

 - **Approach to Passage:** while it speaks of how those who “live by the Spirit” can help, we will consider from the passage how the Holy Spirit sends people into our life to help us.

 - **Seven Ways the Holy Spirit uses brothers and sisters to help**
 - a. **They notice we are caught in a sin (6:1)**

- 1) Meanings: **sin** = “a false step” = “out of step with the Holy Spirit” (see 5:25). Caught = “surprised, seized upon without warning, suddenly invaded, taken before person is aware”
 - 2) Some ways Paul has mentioned that one can be “caught in a sin”: pervert the gospel (1:7b), modeling untruth (2:11-14), falling into slavery away from grace (5:4), acting in the flesh (5:19-21), other obvious out-of-steps (5:15, 5:26)
 - 3) Those who live by the Spirit (see 5:16, 18, 25) come along side of us to help
 - 4) They restore us gently - Restore used of mending nets (Mark 1:19) and bringing factions together (I Cor.1:10)
 - 5) They watch themselves as they know they can easily fall out-of-step with the Spirit as well.
- b. **For a time, they “carry our burden with us” (6:2)** – They carry this “weight” (i.e. burden) serving us humbly in love (5:13)
 - c. **They point out our self-deceptive pride (6:3) as they admit their own** – While God does not show favoritism (2:6), pride leads a person to “deceive themselves” that they are more important than others. Pride is obvious to others but is often left wrongly uncorrected.
 - d. **They move us to “carry our own load” (6:4-5)** – They teach us to “test our own actions” without comparing ourselves to others. They help us run the race set before us (5:7) with focus on Christ (5:5).
 - e. **They want to hear about our progress as we seek to “keep in step with the Spirit” (6:6).** Paul modeled this with them, longing that “Christ is formed in you” (4:19).
 - f. **They lead us to Jesus: through the law to the offense of the cross and eternal life (6:7-8)** – God is never deceived (i.e. mocked); he measures us according to what we sow. We all fail to sow perfectly. Therefore, those who help us bring us again and again to the offense of the cross by which we enter eternal life in (i.e. the grace of) Christ.
 - g. **They “do us good,” helping us reap a harvest of Christ in us (6:9-10)** – They model bearing fruit from the seed of Christ (see Galatians 3:16, 26; 5:22-23), helping us and others as the Holy Spirit gives them opportunity. Such people need to continue to “live in the Spirit” so that they do not “grow weary” (i.e. loosen their care) and give up (i.e. lose heart).

For Further Study

1. Read Galatians 6:1-10 and reflect on the ways the Holy Spirit uses “brothers and sisters” to help us grow in the grace of Christ. What resonates with your life at this time?
2. Who are some of the people that that Holy Spirit is using in your life to grow you in the grace of Christ? Are they pointing to areas where you are “caught in a sin” (i.e. out of step with the Spirit), and are you trying to silence them?

3. Read Galatians 1-6 and remember the work of Christ by which our sin is forgiven (Notice especially 1:3-4, 2:20b, 3:13-14, 4:4-5, 5:11). Why is it essential that we consider it part of the grace of Christ to be shown our sin?
4. As you think of people helping you grow in the grace of Christ, is the Holy Spirit bringing “opportunities” to you to help others? What are ways you are helping them that are reflective of Galatians 6:1-10?
5. Take Away Question: Do the ways I help others reflect that I too live by the Spirit in the grace of Christ?

* Prepared by Tim Berends

Galatians 6:1-10 (NIV 2011)

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.