

Study 17
Galatians 6:6-18

1. What is the spiritual principle that Paul espouses in Gal 6:7? In the context of this passage, why is he mentioning this at this juncture?

Believers are called to support their teachers, sow to the Spirit for eternal rewards, and persist in doing good. True freedom is found in Christ alone, not in outward religious works, and our only boast should be in His cross.

2. Based on the principle which Paul espouses of reaping what one sows what is the role of social work in church? Isn't the mission of the church evangelism and the gospel? Wouldn't the church be distracted from its core mission if social work is strongly in its activities?

Paul's principle of reaping what one sows (Galatians 6:7-10) emphasizes both personal and communal responsibility, including doing good to others, especially fellow believers. Social work in the church aligns with this principle by demonstrating Christ's love through practical acts of service, reinforcing the gospel message with tangible care. Rather than distracting from evangelism, social work complements it by opening hearts to the gospel, embodying Christ's compassion, and providing credibility to the church's witness (James 2:14-17; Matthew 5:16).

3. Why is the spiritual principle of sowing and reaping mentioned in the context of believers trying to deceive God?

The spiritual principle of sowing and reaping is mentioned in Galatians 6:7-8 in the context of believers being warned not to deceive themselves about their actions and their consequences before God. Paul emphasizes that God cannot be mocked—meaning that people cannot live in sinful or self-centered ways while expecting divine blessing. This warning applies to those who might claim faith but live according to the flesh, ignoring the transformative work of the Spirit, thereby fooling themselves into thinking they can escape the inevitable consequences of their choices. This is a sobering reminder to the modern church which is often middle class or upwardly mobile where the outward trappings or activities of their Christian faith tend to lull them into a false sense of security that these outward activities are evidence of spirituality. Hence with the consciences satisfied that they are doing well in the eyes of God they like in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) will walk past their beleaguered neighbor quite blind to their plight like the Levite and the priest. These two were deceiving themselves in ignoring their neighbor. It is doing good to each other...like Galatians 6:6 (ESV) 6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches Or Galatians 6:9-10 (ESV) 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have

opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

It is a practical spirituality that springs into action and always focused on people and not things, neighbors and not empires. This is the lesson FBC will most importantly take to heart as most are comfortable compared to rest of the country. Few participate in missions or outreach and the overwhelming focus is inward. We need to wake up to a practical spirituality and not continue to sleep in self deception

4. Just by reading "*Galatians 6:8 (ESV)* 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" is the issue Paul is addressing here about rewards in heaven or the issue of salvation? Does this mean that social action in helping the poor will result in "reap" eternal life? Isn't this salvation by works?

Galatians 6:8 is addressing the broader principle of spiritual consequences rather than a works-based salvation. Paul contrasts two ways of living: sowing to the flesh, which leads to corruption (eternal separation from God), and sowing to the Spirit, which leads to eternal life. This verse does not imply that social action or good works earn salvation; rather, it underscores that a life led by the Spirit—marked by faith in Christ—naturally produces godly fruit. Helping the poor, when done as a Spirit-led response to God's grace, is evidence of a transformed life, not the means by which one attains eternal life. Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but true faith manifests in good works (James 2:17).

5. What are the motives of the false teachers in Galatia?

The false teachers in Galatia, often referred to as the Judaizers, were motivated by a desire to avoid persecution, gain status, and promote legalism. Paul explains in **Galatians 6:12-13** that they pressured Gentile believers to be circumcised so they could avoid opposition from Jewish authorities and avoid the offense of the cross. They sought to boast in outward religious rituals rather than true transformation through Christ. Their motives were not to glorify God but to gain approval and manipulate others for their own advantage.

b) Reflection question. Can you share if you know of any churches where such leaders are blatantly at work? What can be done in those situations?

6. a) When Paul mentions boasting in the cross what does he mean?

When Paul speaks of boasting in the cross (Galatians 6:14), he contrasts it with the false teachers who boast in outward religious works like circumcision. Boasting in the cross means finding one's identity, confidence, and glory solely in Christ's sacrifice, rather than in personal achievements,

religious rituals, or human approval. The cross represents God's grace, the believer's new life, and the rejection of worldly values. To boast in the cross is to humbly acknowledge that salvation and true transformation come only through Christ's work, not our own efforts.

b) Discussion Question. Does this mean that whenever we meet friends we are to brag about Him? How do we practically boast in Him?

Boasting in Christ does not mean constantly forcing religious conversations or arrogantly proclaiming our faith. Instead, it means living in a way that reflects His grace, prioritizing His work over self-promotion, and sharing our faith with humility and love. Practically, we boast in Christ by:

1. **Living a transformed life** – displaying love, humility, and faithfulness that reflect Christ's impact on us.
2. **Giving credit to God** – acknowledging His role in our successes and struggles rather than seeking personal glory.
3. **Sharing the gospel naturally** – speaking about Christ when opportunities arise, not out of pride, but out of gratitude and joy.
4. **Rejecting worldly status** – finding our worth in Christ rather than in achievements, wealth, or popularity.

In short, boasting in Christ is about making Him the center of our lives and pointing others to Him in both words and actions.

Takeaway

Christians are called to support their teachers, sow to the Spirit for eternal rewards, and persist in doing good. True freedom is found in Christ alone, not in outward religious works, and our only boast should be in His cross.