



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2024 – WEEK 6

Galatians 6: Free to Make a Difference

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

– Galatians 6:14-15 ESV

- **God’s recipe for righteous living**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:22-25 ESV

...**walk** (*peripateō*) by the Spirit (5:16)

Conduct your life according to the Spirit

...**be led by** (*agō*) the Spirit (5:18)

Allow the Spirit to guide your life

...**live** (*zaō*) by the Spirit (5:25)

Be “quickened” by the Spirit’s power

...**keep in step with** (*stoicheō*) the Spirit (5:25)

Order your steps according to the Spirit

- **Satan’s recipe for unrighteousness**

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. – Galatians 5:26
ESV

...a spirit of **conceit** (*kenodoxos*)

A desire for undeserved recognition or glory

...a spirit of **provocation** (*prokaleō*)
Calling someone out for failing to measure up
...a spirit of **envy** (*phthoneō*)
Allowing comparison to foster jealousy

- **The law of Christ**

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and **so fulfill the law of Christ.*** – Galatians 6:1-2 ESV

- You who are spiritual...
 - Who is he talking to
 - The **uncircumcised**, formerly pagan Gentiles
 - And the **circumcised** but Spirit-led Jews

*Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised.** We rely on **what Christ Jesus has done for us.** We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin — a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. **For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.*** – Philippians 3:2-9 NLT

- **Faith**, not works
 - **Spirit**, not flesh
 - **Mercy**, not merit
 - **A gift**, not a reward
 - **Grace**, not good deeds
- What is the law of Christ and how do we fulfill it?

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. – Galatians 6:2-5 ESV

- Mark 12:28-31 NLT

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

*Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And **you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**”*

*“The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **No other commandment is greater than these.**”*

- Love God wholly and completely
- Love others selflessly and sacrificially
- Paul **practiced** what Jesus **preached**

*Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; **I obey the law of Christ.***

*When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. **I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.** – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NLT*

*But let each one test his own work, and **then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.** For each will have to bear his own load. – Galatians 6:4-5 ESV*

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, **so none of us can boast about it.** – Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT*

*Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. **For we are each responsible for our own conduct.** – Galatians 6:4-5 NLT*

- **You reap what you sow**

*Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.** 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. And **let us not grow weary of doing good,** for in due*

*season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, **let us do good** to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. – Galatians 6:6-10 ESV*

***Love each other.** Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. – John 13:34 NLT*

***Love your neighbor** as yourself. – Matthew 22:39 NLT*

*...**love your enemies!** Pray for those who persecute you! – Matthew 5:44 NLT*

*Love does no wrong to others, **so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.** – Romans 13:10 NLT*

- **An unhealthy love affair with legalism**

It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. – Galatians 6:12-13 ESV

- Measuring spirituality by **externals**
- Based on **comparison** and **competition**
- Reliant upon **the flesh** instead of **the Spirit**
- Produces **pride** rather than **humility**
- Elevates **selfishness** over **selflessness**

- **A new creation**

*But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creation.** And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. – Galatians 6:14-16 ESV*

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. – 2 Corinthians 5:16-19 ESV*

- **Discussion questions**

How could embracing the grace of the gospel and the freedom we have in Christ make us more effective witnesses?

Look at Romans 8:12-14 and Colossians 3:1-5. How do we put to death our flesh and live in the Spirit?

Close your time in prayer, asking God to help you live in the power of the Spirit and not the flesh.

