

**GALATIANS**  
Week 5: A Tale of Two Churches  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**



RECAP

In this fifth sermon walking through the New Testament book of Galatians, we walk through the tale of two churches as the Apostle Paul gives very clear application on what a Spirit-led church looks like today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Today finishes the message series walking through the book of Galatians. In this series we've discussed the tale of two gospels, two crowds, two covenants, two fruits and two churches. What part of the book of Galatians or this series has stood out to you the most? Why?
2. In Galatians 6 Paul discusses specific actions that should characterize Christians and churches that are led by the Spirit. Have you ever been a part of a church that seemed to be more flesh-driven than Spirit-driven? How could you tell? What was the fruit of the church?
3. Read Galatians 6:1-2. Paul commands believers to gently restore the broken and to carry each other's burdens. Share a time when you were hurting or burdened and other Christians (the church) came to your aid and helped restore you.
4. Read Galatians 6:3-4. How easy has it been for you to find yourself off track and following God or practicing your faith for the wrong reasons? What led you off track? How did you get back on track?
5. The final two action steps given by Paul are "live generously" and "make a difference." Talk about ways you're living generously and making a difference (not to boast, but for accountability) with the group. How can you grow in these areas?

NEXT STEP

As a group, talk through some specific people that the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart and leading you towards to share the hope of Jesus with.

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact [abigailparker@cbcva.org](mailto:abigailparker@cbcva.org)



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019  
**WEEK 5: A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES**  
GALATIANS 6:1-10


5 ACTIONS OF A SPIRIT-LED CHURCH

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the broken. (*Galatians 6:1*)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ someone's burden. (*Galatians 6:2*)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ your heart. (*Galatians 6:3-4*)
4. Live \_\_\_\_\_. (*Galatians 6:6*)
5. Make a \_\_\_\_\_. (*Galatians 6:10*)

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**GALATIANS 6:7-8**

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Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 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. *Galatians 6:7-8*

**1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?**

*If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.*

In these verses Paul reinforces a deep theological truth introduced by Jesus himself: our actions in this life influence our eternal rewards. *"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done"* (Matthew 16:27). It is heresy to affirm that our actions determine our eternal destination. Citizenship in heaven is attained solely through faith in Jesus Christ. But that doesn't mean that our actions on this planet are meaningless.

Paul states that we will reap whatever we sow, meaning there are eternal consequences to whether we choose to live by the flesh or by the Spirit. Living by the flesh reaps only destruction (which could mean eternity in hell or a believer living by the flesh whose rewards are destroyed when tested by fire). Reaping eternal life is a reference to the blessings of eternal life, rather than blessings in this temporal life earth.

Rather than "cheap grace" and the idea that our actions are immaterial because all that matters is faith in Jesus, Paul puts strong emphasis on how we live our lives here on earth. What we do in this life echoes in eternity. How we live our lives has eternal consequences. And while we might fool everyone else, God cannot be mocked because God sees the heart. We will reap what we sow.

**GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK**

**μυκτηρίζω** (*muktērizō*), is the Greek word for "mocked" in Galatians 6:7 and is unique in that it is the only time this verb is used in the entire New Testament. The literal meaning is to "turn up the nose, to sneer, to ridicule." When used rhetorically, it speaks to the intent of the words, irrespective of the words themselves. Just as you can say the words "You're welcome" to someone in a way that is genuine and heartfelt as well as in a way that is insincere and mocking, so the Galatians were saying all the right things, but their intent exposed the false motives of their hearts.

**2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT?** *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

The context of this passage is the tail end of Paul's letter to the Galatians wherein he combats directly the heretical notion that justification before God happens through faith in Jesus *and* obedience to the Law. Paul spends the majority of the letter arguing from the Law itself that no one can be justified by works and that the time of the old covenant had come and gone. The other extreme of this spectrum is to put so much emphasis on faith alone that actions and behavior lose all value. This inevitably becomes a rationale for blatant and unrepentant sin. So, after Paul spends the majority of the letter to the Galatians combating the extreme of the spectrum erroneous teaching that justification before God happens through our actions, Paul spends chapter six combating the other extreme end of the spectrum that teaches that our actions have no consequences and we can sin to our sinful heart's content.

**3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?**

*Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.*

- God sees straight through our outward actions to our inward intentions. God cannot be fooled and God cannot be mocked.
- Our actions in this life have a direct impact on our eternity.
- Living by the Spirit will reap eternal life and eternal rewards.

**5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY?** *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- These verses should instill a healthy fear of the Lord and a sobering reminder of ultimate accountability for our actions. God sees our hearts and God cannot be mocked. He is the ultimate judge of our lives and we will all be held to account one day. Those who have given their lives to Jesus have a duty to live for the Spirit that saved them. Every day, every action, every thought, every intention is sowing seed to either future reward or future destruction. We will reap what we sow, so sow carefully.

**4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS?** *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. *2 Corinthians 4:17*

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. *James 3:18*

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. *2 Corinthians 9:6*

**6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY?** *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- What is something that you sowed for a long time and didn't reap the rewards (or punishments) until much later? How does that influence your understanding of these verses?
- What are practical examples in your life of what it means to sow to please the flesh as opposed to sowing to please the Spirit?

**7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES?** *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

The promise inherent in these verses is powerful: those who sow to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. It's a reminder that all of our sacrifices on this earth aren't for naught. It's a motivation to love more, serve more, sacrifice more and give more for the Kingdom. If our rewards were solely in this life, then it would make sense to hoard what we can and enjoy a leisurely life. But our lives are eternal and our sacrifices for the Kingdom are actually investments in the next life. So go out there and love boldly, give generously, share your faith indiscriminately and sow seeds of righteousness that will reap an eternal harvest on the day that Jesus Christ returns!