

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, May 5, 2024



10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: Three Examples of "Spirit - Led" People Doing Good
Galatians 6:5-10
Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.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.⁹ And let us not grow weary of (well) 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. (Galatians 6: 6-10)

Walking in the Spirit must be practical. Telling someone what to do is not the same as telling them how to do it. The Fruit of the Spirit is practiced TO believers in biblical community – but what are some practical examples of how one walks in the Spirit and does “good” in biblical community? Paul now gives concrete illustrations of what it means to live as a Christian individual within a community when that community is guided by freedom in the Spirit.¹ Spirit – led people bear with one another’s burdens. The following section focuses on Paul’s concern with the continuation of the church in Galatia being successful at keeping in step with the Spirit.

Paul addresses the need for this new local church to do “good” regarding teachers who are teaching sound theology and compensating them for it, to do “good” regarding being accountable to God by properly sowing and reaping, and to do “good” regarding everyone in general, and specifically the community of believers in their new family. The idea of doing “good” means “to benefit” – and specifically to benefit others.

I. Spirit – led people do “good” regarding the teacher and the taught – (vs 6)

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches (vs. 6)

A. The teacher provides spiritually for the taught

At this stage in the early church there is already a spiritual and physical hierarchy of those who teach and those who are taught. This is found in Acts 2.

“taught/teacheth” - *katecheo* – “to sound down to the ears” to indoctrinate or catechize - from *kata* (down from higher to lower), *echeo* – to make a loud sound – 1 Corinthians 13:1 “I have become as a sounding or noisy gong..”

Who and What are you allowing to “sound down into your ears”?

Catechetical – instruction on preparation for adults who are converting to Catholicism. Confirmation include 6 steps: knowledge of the faith, liturgical education, moral formation, formation in prayer and methods of prayer, education for community life and missionary initiation.

And know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law (Romans 2:18)

Acts 2 - Recipe for Teacher and Taught

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)

The Teacher	The Taught
<i>Apostle's Teaching (Acts 2: 14-35)</i>	<i>Response to the Apostle's Teaching (Acts 2: 37-46)</i> Fellowship

¹ McKnight, Scot. *The NIV Application Commentary*, 282.

Key Note: Out of all the opportunities to “teach/preach” on an experience and how it affected the church (or began the church) Pentecost could have been a justifiable topic; however Peter simply preaches the death burial and resurrection of Jesus and uses the OT prophet Joel and King David to support the Truth of the Good News – “boringly Bible”.

The focus of the teacher is not on WHO is being taught; but on WHAT the taught need(s) to hear...

B. The taught provide physically for the teacher

From the mention of bearing one another's burdens, he passes to one way in which those burdens may be borne—by ministering out of their earthly goods to their spiritual teachers. The "but" in the Greek, beginning of this verse, expresses this: I said, Each shall bear his own burden; BUT I do not intend that he should not think of others, and especially of the wants of his ministers. – Brown

Commenting on Galatians 6:6 Martin Luther wrote: "These passages are all meant to benefit us ministers. I must say I do not find much pleasure in explaining these verses. I am made to appear as if I am speaking for my own benefit."

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)

no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. – Jesus (Matthew 10:10)

"This may be the earliest reference to any kind of paid Christian ministry..." – C.K. Barrett

1. Share all good or beneficial things with your teachers – not just monetary. *Agathos* – “benefit”
2. Look for ways to bless your pastor by serving in your church.
3. The body of Christ is diverse – share your talents and gifting with the body of Christ – beginning with your pastor and those of the household of the faith (vs. 10)
4. Gather together as a contributor and member – not a consumer.
5. Teach your children to have a high view of the local church and leadership.

II. Spirit – led people do “good” regarding being accountable to God by properly sowing and reaping (vs 7-9)

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. (vs. 7-9)

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (6: 2)

Four truths about sowing and reaping:

1. God cannot be fooled or mocked
2. We will reap what we sow (good or bad)
3. We will get tired of working in the field
4. Sowing and reaping do not happen at the same time

The law of harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny. – James Allen

Fold – A term for measuring a group. The harvest yields more seeds than you planted. Positive or Negative. (After my daughter's wedding)

- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. ... Harvest is the physical manifestation of the time in the field
- Fall is the end of the previous two seasons – Spring and Summer
- Sowing and reaping begins with all the efforts of the planting and nurturing of the couple and results in the couple reaping the result of their work.

- Finally, the season of growing is over – Eschatological bent
- Don't be a Pragmatist – We are not omniscient. (Don't give up on your kids, remember there are multiple harvests)

Are we changing together as spouses, families, communities, local churches in the fall season? Are we learning from past fall seasons?

Each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our goals in life. I learned this first through agriculture, because all farmers can expect to have about 40 growing seasons, giving them just 40 chances to improve on every harvest. - Buffet
"What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the LORD said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. (Amos 8:2)

"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." (Jeremiah 8:20)

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

III. Spirit – led people do "good" regarding everyone, especially the household of faith (vs. 10)

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (vs. 10.)

"So then" – Therefore... when we can, benefit everyone, especially fellow Christians.

Why and then the What...

WHY: The harvest is coming. Our time to not grow tired in "well-doing" is a general statement.

WHAT: benefits are brought into the perspective of specific benefits to two groups but in a hierarchy. We are to "benefit" (do good) everyone. This would mean... well... everyone, but especially it would benefit those of the household of the faith.

Benefit every man (person)

Luther said that justification was the article of a standing or a falling church. That may be true in the region of theology, but in the region of practical life I do not know that you will find a test more reliable and more easy of application than this, Does a man care for spreading amongst his fellows the gospel that he himself has received? If he does not, let him ask himself whether, in any real sense, he has it. 'Well-doing' includes doing good to others, and the possession of Christ will make it certain that we shall impart Him. – MacLaren

Context: Jew/Gentile issues

Benefit especially the household of faith - Christianity, however it may have been in subsequent ages divorced from a recognition of its source. So, then, the gospel rises above all the narrow distinctions which call themselves patriotism and are parochial, and it says that there is 'neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, Jew nor Greek, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free,' but all are one. – Ibid.

Household –

if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. (I Timothy 3:15)

but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (Hebrews 3:6)

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (I Peter 4:17)

Final Thought: Household of the faith – oikos

What are we a household of? – The "FAITH"

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Eschatological bent – household

you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (I Peter 2:5)

Whose household are you associated with? Identity – The apostle surely here is not thinking of "the Christian doctrine," but of that principle of believing acceptance of God's promises which he has been insisting upon all through the Epistle [the gospel]. – Pulpit Commentary

So then you are no longer strangers and alien, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

As I got older I began to understand that being a part of my Dad's household had less and less to do with me and more and more to do with the outpouring of grace on me and my sisters from the commonality we had being his children. We were all so different, but he loves us equally. It was a household of faith not because we followed the law of my Dad, (he knew we couldn't obey all the time), but rather it was a household of faith because of the "good news" that we believed about my Dad's love for us and the relationship we would always have with him because even when we didn't obey him he always loved us and pursued us. There were consequences for breaking the rules but that had no bearing on where we stood with my Father and mother relationally – it was after all – their household and I was a part of it.

Are we benefitting one another (doing good)

by... blessing one another spiritually and physically based on what God has gifted us with?

by... being accountable to God with how we are sowing and reaping?

including everyone, especially other Christians?



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ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

1. LADIES' SPRING TEA--MONDAY MAY 13 @ 6:30 PM AT ONWARD. Join us for light refreshments, a testimonial, and "purse trash" bingo prizes! Bring your favorite teacup if you'd like to! Sign up on the sheet posted in the lobby or by texting Jen Sebestyen (317) 601-6001

2. PRAYER & SHARE—WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 @ 7PM—Please join us for an hour of prayer

3. YOUTH CAMP JUNE 19-22 @ CAMP INDICOSO, SPRINGVILLE, IN. Camp Indicoso, 1558 Sieboldt Quarry Road, Springville, Indiana. Arrival: 11am on Wednesday, June 19. Return: Pick up on Saturday, June 22 at 4pm. Cost: \$350/pp, (\$300/pp for multiple siblings, same family). Can pay cash or check payable to "Mission Christian Academy." You can give the money to Jerry Ackerman.

NOTE: There are students who would like to go to Youth Camp who need a scholarship to afford to go. If you would like to sponsor a student (\$350 / student), please note "Youth Camp" on your gift.

4. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES EACH FRIDAY AT 7AM

5. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.

6. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE—The Gideons have provided a display on the counter in the foyer for you to give God's word in honor or in memory of a loved one.

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