

## Galatians ch 6 vs1

We'll begin Gal Ch 6 this morning but before we do I want to take the opportunity to spend a considerable portion of time on the latter portion of last weeks text because for times sake due to the baby dedications we really weren't able to spend time on those vs. Paul the apostle, in this portion of scripture in ch 5 vs16-26 has been contrasting the works of the flesh, with the fruit of the spirit. The types of things that the flesh manufactures in a persons life vs the characteristics that will distinguish the person who is truly governed by and submitted to the Holy Spirit. and The manufacturing's of the flesh are things that will keep us out of the kingdom of God, and those are the things that we are able to produce in and through our own efforts and energies.

But the fruit of the Spirit, is that which comes to fruition in our lives not by a work that we have done but rather by submission to the Spirit, allowing Him to have His way in us, producing those Christ like characteristics in our lives. Which only testifies to the fact that you are a citizen of the kingdom and that you are one of the sons of God. and The fruit of the Spirit, the chief characteristic of the Spirit, is Love, not the type of love that loves something for what's in it for me or what I get out of it. But rather the sacrificial type of love that seeks not to get but rather to give. (God the Father and God the Son both giving numerous examples of this type of love through out the scriptures.) So if you're one who is walking in the Spirit, one who is allowing the Holy Spirit to have His way in your life, you are going to have this Agape' love of God, dwelling in and radiating from your life, and it's going to be imputed to people, even people who don't deserve it, because who among us deserve the love of God?

Yet God has loved us, even so we are to love others even as God has loved us because the bible says, *"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."* James said that with our tongues *"we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."* Why, because the man or the woman who walks in the Spirit, walks in love. and Again it applies to people that have done nothing to merit that favor just as much as it does your own kids, or your husband or your wife.

Now forgive me here but I'm going to touch a sore spot for a lot of people because it would appear to me that as the body of Christ we've got much to learn concerning the walk in the Spirit and allowing agape' to rule our lives especially in our own homes. Because when the divorce rate within the body of Christ parallels the divorce rate of the world, it can only mean one thing, this isn't a reality in our lives. Why did Jesus say that divorce was permitted, because God desired it? No, because of the hardness of your hearts, now I know that there are extenuating circumstances, sometimes the husband or wife comes to know the Lord and the other one doesn't, and so the non-believer takes off. That's not what I'm talking about, Paul said, "*if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.*" But in that case whereby both people claim to be believers and lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and an irreconcilable difference arises, then agape' is not ruling their lives. Because the bible says that we've been given the ministry of reconciliation, the reconciling of relationships; not only sinner to Savior which is no doubt of primary importance, but what about 1 to another.

We'll see that in this morning's text, when someone stumbles, when someone falters, we're to restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness considering ourselves lest we also be tempted. Now again I know that sometimes, things take place, and I'm insinuating that there's not forgiveness and that God can't use your life, because that's simply not true. But what I am saying is that the fruit of the Spirit, is love, sacrificial Christ like love that says "*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*"

Now I hope you guys don't think I'm up here throwing stones because that's not at all what I'm seeking to do. I'm simply seeking to show you that we have a problem as the body of Christ and it's evident, the Holy Spirit by and large is not the governor and ruler of our lives or else these types of things wouldn't be happening. and Again I realize that if the party that caused a breach in the marriage had been allowing the Holy Spirit to dominate them, then whatever it was that caused the separation would've never taken place. But be that as it may, that can't be changed; we just want to be Christ like in the way that we would handle it before the Lord and before the world. and A lot of that is determined by the heart of the violator, are they repentant or do they desire to lead whatever kind of life they want, and you approach the circumstance based upon what you discern to be true and is evidenced as true by their actions. and Then you make the necessary decisions based upon how you believe the Lord, not the flesh, is directing you. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

On Monday evenings a group of us get together and pray and many times we'll discuss the Sunday morning service and one of the men brought this whole concept up, concerning how so many marriages struggle and many of them resolve in divorce and yet if we were walking in the Spirit, then how could that be because the fruit of the Spirit is love. That stirred me, and so I wanted to share it with you so that you could consider that as well, and if need be do some repenting and allow the Holy Spirit His proper place in your life.

Because maybe for you it's not your marriage, but some other circumstance in your life by which you're allowing the passions of the flesh to rule you vs the desires of the Spirit. and Your blowing your witness at work because your always so heated about something, hey, the fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace, longsuffering and kindness, it's the flesh that causes contentions and hatred, out bursts of wrath and dissensions. Reckon that old man to be dead, indeed crucified with Christ and as the Holy Spirit to dominate your life and give you peace and if need be patience with the circumstance. Yield yourself to the Spirit, that's what meekness is, which is another aspect of the fruit of the Spirit, meekness is being yielded to Spirit vs the flesh. 2 Men in scripture that are identified as being meek or humble, which is this same word that's been translated "gentleness" here for us. Num 12:3 *"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."* Moses was meek above all the men which were upon the face of the earth, but don't be deceived, meekness does not mean weakness. This is the same Moses that when he came down from Mt Sinai having received the 10 commandments and found the people partying and worshipping the golden calf we read that Moses', *"anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it."* and Then we read where Moses said, *"Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' "* So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day."

All this from the man who was meek above all the men that was upon the earth? So let's not confuse meekness with weakness and authority, the second man being Jesus Christ, Jesus said *"take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls."* and Yet we read in the gospel accounts of at least 2 times that Jesus went into the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers and drove them all out and one of those times He used a whip of cords to do it. Saying it is written, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves."* So meekness is definitely not weakness, but rather power and authority that is under constraint, or yielded to the Holy Spirit and His righteous desire for your life. Because as we read in vs 24 of ch 5.

## Vs24

Along with those emotions or lusts that spur you onto the appetites of the flesh, and when did this take place, when was your old nature crucified? The bible teaches that you were crucified with Christ, in the respect that He bore all your sin, every appetite of your flesh was upon Himself, so in Christ your flesh has been crucified, and the reality of that is imputed to you reckon or consider that to be true, when you believe in the work that Jesus Christ accomplished upon the cross by faith. Listen to what Paul says in Rom 6:6, in regards to Jesus Christ he writes, *“that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”* and Again in Gal 2:20 *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* So God has made the provision for you to have victory over the flesh and a walk in the Spirit in the person of His Son, but it’s your responsibility to, *“reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Rom 6:11

## Vs25

So if we live in the Spirit, or if we have found new life in Jesus Christ and having been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, which all who know the Lord have. and Since it’s in Christ the we live and move and have our being, it’s safe to say that we live in the Spirit so since we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. In other words, since we’ve found life by new birth in the Spirit, don’t you think that wisdom dictates that we are to take every step of everyday in dependence upon the same Holy Spirit that gave us life in the 1<sup>st</sup> place? Let’s look to the Holy Spirit to develop *in* us the life that He has brought *to* us, rather than seeking to work out in the manufactured efforts of our flesh that which can only be accomplished through submission to the Holy Spirit anyway. That’s what the entire book of Galatians is all about the whole book kind of pivots around ch 3 vs1-3 vs 3 being the emphasis, *“having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”* What did Jesus say, John 6:63 *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.”* Human resource does nothing to improve the life that God gives by the Spirit, in-fact it gets in the way and hinders the Spirit of God’s work in our lives. So (read vs25)

## Vs26

You see notice the contrasts that Paul is placing before us of the results of walking in the Spirit vs walking in the flesh. The Spirit working love, and peace and joy, in our lives, patience, gentleness, goodness and humility, the flesh culminates in pride, provocation and envy. Comparing itself to someone of a lesser moral standard and then elevating myself in my heart above that person, that’s flesh, it’s called pride and it’s sin before God. Phil 2:3 says *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”*

Jesus one day pointed out to His disciples how the Pharisees would always seek to take the best seats at the feasts that they were invited to and He said hey, that's not cool. Don't seek the best for yourself, or else when someone more honorable than yourself comes in and the host comes to you and says hey move down, I want to give that seat to so and so, you'll be humiliated and shamed before all the people. But He said if when you go to a feast you choose the lowest seat, if no one says anything then no worries, but if the host should come to you and say hey, what are you doing way down there, come up here closer, then you'll be exalted and honored before all the people. The bible says, "*Let another man praise you and not your own mouth.*" James said that boasting in arrogance finds it's roots in evil. Jesus went on to say "*For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*"

Pride, conceit, seeking the glory of man, is of the flesh, the term "proud Christian" couldn't be more of a biblical oxymoron, we're to be clothed in humility. Not to be confused with confidence and assurance, those belong to you in Christ, but not pride, the bible tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. and You will not excel in your walk with God; as a matter of fact you won't move an inch, if God is resisting you. We're not to be prideful, the bible is full of passages concerning God's disdaining and hatred of pride; nor are we to provoke one another, you and I aren't to be forcing our will on other people, or to compete with someone in such a way as to stir up evil or fleshly tendencies in them, again it goes back to comparing ourselves to someone else. The only person you're to compare yourself up against is the person of Jesus Christ, if you do that, you'll find no cause for being prideful or provocative towards another. Instead you'll be clothed in humility seeing yourself for the wretched sinner you are, and I am, and seeing myself in truth, I'll nothing ill to say concerning anyone else.

Nor are we to envy one another, we're not to be covetous of what others have, the bible calls that idolatry, you're not to covet an individuals spouse, or boat or house, their money, their title or anything else. Paul told Timothy, "*having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*" Do you have food; do you have clothes on your back? Then be satisfied with that, be content Heb 13:5 says, "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.*"

Now we come to a chapter break, but Paul didn't insert these, other men through out history have placed these breaks where it seemed best to them. But Paul is still developing or rather solidifying the difference between the spiritual man and the carnal man, the carnal man becomes conceited, provocative, and covetous, comparing himself to others seeking to make himself look better. Making rungs on a spiritual ladder that he's created out of other people's faults and failures, and fumbles and stumbles in order to make himself seem better. But Paul says here in vs 1 of ch 6.

Vs1

You see the legalist, the carnal man, the one who is operating in the flesh and is governed by the flesh sees opportunity to glorify himself or herself, in the mistakes of others, and uses the opportunity to somehow advance themselves. But what we read here is that hey, if you are aware of someone's faltering, if you're being led by the Spirit, another attribute of the Spiritual man is that you're not going to be looking out for how this benefits you. Remember that goes back to that quality of agape' that's looking to give, that says, "how can I be of service."

So the spiritual man isn't looking to capitalize on another man's mistakes, but rather he or she is going to seek to be of service to that person in order to restore that person back to an upright position before God understanding that apart from the grace of God, this could be you. "*If a man is overtaken in any trespass*", now I believe that careful analysis of this vs is important, the word translated "overtaken" is the Greek word "prolamban'o" meaning surprised or caught, it's a person who's been trapped or ensnared. This doesn't necessarily point to a deliberate action where by someone was intentionally seeking to sin and was caught by a brother, though I suppose you could make application to that, but more it speaks of someone stumbling. I didn't have my sights set on sin, but I've faltered, my sin has found me out, it's overtaken me.

I Just want to stay right there for now, because we could easily drift into a segment here concerning church discipline and how we as the body of Christ are to deal with different aspects of sin. Meaning, the way that we deal with a person who's unintentionally stumbled or even has had an isolated lapse in their walk by which they stumbled but they desire to be made right, is completely different then the biblical structure given for the person who is warped and sinning being self-condemned even though they say they're a Christian. We even differently with the person who's doctrinally confused and slipping into heresy, so we don't have time to explore all of those avenues but we'll touch on this one.

The person who's fallen or stumbled, the bible tells us here that when a brother is overtaken in sin or trespass, some sin ensnares them or overtakes them, kind of like that person who's driving in your blind side and since you didn't check carefully when you changed lanes you hit them. Now it was your fault, but it was a surprise, you didn't set out to play demolition derby. and So often that's the case with us as believers, we didn't set out that night to destroy our lives, but somewhere between 10 and 2 we were blindsided and caught off guard. Paul says that when this happens, if you're a spiritually minded individual and you're made aware of a circumstance, you're to restore that person in a spirit of *gentleness*, again that fruit of the Spirit. But the carnal Christian can't help another carnal Christian get out of their problem, it's the one who is spiritual, heavenly minded that is able to restore.

That word restore speaks of the resetting of a broken bone. The mending of that which is torn, that's a Christ like quality in Ps 147:3 we read that "*He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.*", Ps 23:1-3 "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.*" You who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. When someone in the body falls it's like a bone has been broken, and attacking them, or criticizing them doesn't make matters better, if anything it makes them worse. When someone falls and breaks a bone, you don't set there while they're in pain going, what in the world are you doing, why didn't you watch what you were doing. and You don't just stand there above them looking down on them saying, if you were only sure footed like me this would've never happened?

You don't do that, you seek to comfort them, to help them in anyway you can that they might be restored or healed, properly. That's what Paul is saying here, don't criticize the brother who's stumbled, don't just stand above them, looking down on them, help them out, and do what you can do to aid in the restoration process. Now the resetting of a bone is a painful process for the person who's been broken, but necessary nonetheless if they are to return to effective usage of that leg, or arm or whatever. Even so the spiritual restoration process can be painful, but necessary if we're to return to effective service as unto the Lord, and usage with in the body.

As those who are led by the Spirit or are ruled by the Spirit, we're called to be apart of that healing and restoring process, especially those who are in any form of leadership. In Ezek 34: we read a word concerning those shepherds who aren't tending to the flock in this way, we read, "*Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? (and He speaks of them making merchandise of the sheep for themselves, and He says) The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them."* Then He declares His own heart, and speaking of the good shepherd Jesus Christ He says, "*I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick.*"

That's the way God treats needy lives, and if God is dwelling in us and we're submitted the Holy Spirit then we to will seek to restore the broken, and strengthen the sick. In a spirit of gentleness, clothed in humility, with out harshness and a sense of self-righteous condemnation. and Paul, though the Lord entrusted tremendous authority to him, practiced this same rule, in speaking to the Corinthian church concerning their carnality Paul said, "Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ."

He taught others to do the same 2 Tim 2:24-25 “*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*”

Now if rebellion sets in, then the standard changes, but this is always to be the 1<sup>st</sup> and primary approach, through meekness and humility, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. As soon as you think that you’re above a certain sin, and you think in your heart, “can you believe what they’ve done? I could never do that.” Be careful, foolish pride has been the ruin and the downfall of many a saint, the bible says that “*pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.*” The NT counter part being, “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*” So (read vs 1-2)

Vs2

This is where (Lord willing) we’ll pick up next week and if the Lord wills we’ll finish out the book of Galatians.