

Week Six - *Death by Comparison*
Galatians 6:1-5

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Read Galatians 6. How would you summarize Paul's main point in this concluding chapter?
2. Paul begins the chapter encouraging Christians to watch out for each other in spiritual matter. In Galatians 6:9-10 he expands his concern to taking care of each other in temporal matters as well. Read John 13:34-35. Why is taking care of each other such a high priority for the Lord?
3. Someone has said, "Christians don't need more instruction and training, they need more exercise." Do you agree... do too many Christians equate maturity of faith with biblical knowledge rather than acts of compassion and faith? Explain your answer.
4. Do you think most churches do a good job at restoring fallen Christians? Explain.
5. Paul added an important word to describe the spirit of our efforts to restore another person. What is that word (See Galatians 6:1) and why do you think Paul added it?
6. What other danger in Galatians 6:1 did Paul warn against when one Christian attempts to restore a fallen believer?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to be the Christian who walks into a struggling Christian's life when most of their friends are walking out.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Read Galatians 6:12. Based on this verse, what does Paul mean by "the law of Christ"? For additional insight read John 15:11-13.
9. Are you more inclined to offer help or request help? Is requesting help difficult for you? Explain why or why not.
10. Someone has said there is a ministry in allowing others to minister to you. Do you agree?
11. Read Luke 6:34 and Luke 14:12-14. What reason(s) does Jesus give for helping others in need? What benefits have you experienced from helping others in the past?
12. Consider the counsel of Galatians 6:3-5. What's the downside of self-promotion?

13. There are people who have every right to feel proud of doing good. Read Matthew 6:1-4. Why is it always better to be humble about doing good?

14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for greater opportunities to help those in need and to do it with a humble spirit.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Read Galatians 6:4-5. What's the danger of comparing yourself to others who may be better and do more or may be worse and do less than you?

16. Consider the example of Jesus and Peter walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee after his resurrection as told to us in John 21:20-22. What did Jesus say to Peter when he attempted to compare his life to the life of another disciple?

17. Do you agree we are all different? In what ways? Giftedness? Opportunity? Family of Origin? Experience? Education? --- Is it possible even to make a valid comparison between members of one family? Why or why not?

18. Read Paul's thoughts about others passing judgments on his life in 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. Why did the criticisms and comparisons of others not matter to Paul, based on this passage?

19. What unique opportunities does your present life circumstance provide for you to make a difference in things that matter?

20. Do you more often consider yourself more blessed or more challenged when compared to others? Is there a difference?

21. Finish your FIFTEEN by reading Paul's thoughts on the subject in Philippians 4:12-13. Then pray to see every situation as an opportunity to demonstrate your faith in Christ.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. Read Galatians 6:6-10. Compare verse 6 to 1 Corinthians 9:7-11. What point is this passage addressing? Why did something need to be said? Should the sincerity of a Christian worker be tested by insufficient remuneration? Why or why not?

23. In Galatians 6:7-8, Paul is teaching about the consequence of behavior. Is this the Bible's version of Karma? What goes around comes around?

24. Describe the difference in behavior between those who "sow to please the flesh" and those who "sow to please the

spirit.” Provide an example of each.

25. How can temporal things be used for spiritual purposes? How can spiritual things be used to help in temporal ways?
26. What determines whether something is wrong or right? Godly or ungodly?
27. One of Stephen Covey’s life principles was to begin with the end in mind. Is that a helpful way for Christians to decide if something is worthy or unworthy of their time and resources? Explain.
28. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to be more spiritually minded in deciding the daily activities of your life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. Read Galatians 6:9-10. Why is it important to find ways to do good to specifically to help those who share our Christian faith?
30. Read Galatians 6:11-18. What did Paul want the Galatians to know in verse 11? Why do you think that was important?
31. Paul concludes this chapter by again addressing the major issue of the entire letter: the importance of resisting the attempt of some to turn the Christian faith into a religion of obedience and tradition rather than a loving relationship based on grace through faith in Jesus. Is that still a problem in the church today?
32. In verse 13 Paul points out that even those who urge others to live perfect lives of obedience fall short themselves. If they know it is impossible, why do they urge others to accept that teaching?
33. According to verse 14, of what will Paul always boast? According to verse 16, what is the result of a proper faith based on grace through faith in Jesus?
34. What marks was Paul referring to in verse 17? Have you suffered in some ways for your faith in Jesus? Do you bear the marks of one who has been faithful despite the unpopularity of your faith? Explain.
35. Conclude your final FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the courage to boast about the privilege of suffering for the cause.