

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

When do we bear our own burdens?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

Why do we struggle to help others in their burdens (3)?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

How is gossip an example of boasting in our own works?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How do these concrete examples help us to live out our faith?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 119:9-16

Song #48 ~ O God, My Joy

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Genesis 34:1-31

Song #111 ~ God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Scripture Reading: Genesis 35:1-29

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 6:3-6

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #237 ~ O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

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Text: Galatians 6:3-6

Theme: Justification and sanctification are by faith apart from the works of the Law (Gal. 3:3).

Introduction: What does it look like to walk by the Spirit? Not only has Paul already given us the fruit that the Spirit produces, but now, Paul gives us concrete examples of walking by the Spirit.

- I. Being led by the Spirit within the local church (3-6).
 - A. Let us humbly bear the burdens of others (3-6).
 1. Stop deceiving yourself into thinking that you are something when you are nothing apart from Christ (3).

Explanation: Verse 3 is intended to be connected to verse 2 (notice “for” at the beginning of verse 3; also notice the idea of burdens in verse 2 and 5). The New Living Translation adds the phrase—“if you think you are too important *to help someone.*” This is likely what Paul had in mind. The proud person, who views himself as important, is unwilling to stoop down and bear the burdens of others—he is too important for that.

Application: Our ability to serve others is directly linked to how well we understand the Gospel. When you come to grips with the reality that you have been rescued from your sins, you will have no problem bearing the burdens.
 2. Stop looking at others and instead examine yourself (4).

Explanation: Paul is not giving an opportunity for boasting. But instead, his goal is that we examine our own selves.

Application: We tend to boast when we look at the failures of others. Gossip is a form of boasting because we look at the failures of others in light of our own perceived strengths.

3. Bear your own burdens (5).

Explanation: At first glance, Paul seems to contradict himself. We are told to bear each other’s burdens (2) and now Paul tells us to bear our own burdens (5). First, Paul uses a different word. The word “load” in verse 5 is used to refer to a backpack (something that can be carried). Secondly, Paul uses the future tense to refer to the future judgment. Paul is saying that we will one day give an account of our works (2 Cor. 5:10).

4. Bear the burdens of those who minister the Word to you (6).

Explanation: Although Paul often waived his right to receiving pay (Acts 20:33-35; 2 Cor. 11:7-9), yet a worker *is* worthy of his higher (1 Cor. 9:11; 2 Tim. 5:17).

Application: As a society, we pay based on what we value. For example, a quarterback in the NFL can make between 40-50 million dollars a year. Yet, a school teacher makes a minimal salary. The church is not much different than society. Often churches begrudgingly pay their pastor. This text calls us to bear the burdens—even the financial burdens—of those who labor in the Word on our behalf.

Conclusion: Within the context of bearing each others burdens, Paul reminds us that we must also bear the financial burden of those who minister the Word to us. I confess, a passage like this feels a bit awkward for me. I would much prefer to shoulder the burdens of others than to shine a light on my own burdens. Yet, this passage commands us to bear each others burdens.