

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Does the Law of Love Demand?

Galatians 6:1-10

¹ The greatest commandment that the Lord Jesus gave us was ² **As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** ¹ ³ The Apostle James called it “The Royal Law”. ² ⁴

So – what does this “Law of Love” demand? ⁵

Galatians, chapter 6, verses 1 through 10, explain.

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load. ³ ⁶

¹ John 13:34.

² James 2:8 - If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself you are doing right.

³ Galatians 6:1-5.

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ⁴ ₇

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. ⁵ ₈

First of all . . .

⁴ Galatians 6:1-9.

⁵ Galatians 6:10.

I. It Demands a Different Attitude – v1-6

It demands a different attitude. ⁹

You need to have a different attitude toward a weaker brother. ¹⁰

Verses 1 and 2 state, **Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

A weaker brother is someone who is caught in a sin. ¹¹

The word caught ⁶ in the original language, literally means to receive in advance. So, it came to mean, here, to be caught by surprise. ¹² The word, sin ⁷, means to make a false step. I believe most of us do this all the time. ¹³

So – the stronger brother needs to bring the sin to the weaker brother's attention. ¹⁴

⁶ Προλαμβάνω.

⁷ Παράπτωμα.

The word, restore ⁸, means to put him together like a doctor resets a broken bone or a fisherman mends his nets. ¹⁵ And, it's to be done gently ⁹, in the spirit of meekness. Humbly, not arrogantly. You might be the one “caught” (tested) next time. Remember the Golden Rule. Be sensitive to your brother's weakness and, maybe, even volunteer to sacrifice some of your freedom in Christ in deference to thank weakness. ¹⁶

The Apostle Paul even recommended not eating meat when dining with a vegetarian, so that the vegetarian would feel more comfortable and not think less of you or your faith. ¹⁰ ¹⁷

In fact, the stronger brother may need to help carry his brother's burdens since that may be a weight that may be too heavy to carry alone. ¹¹ ¹⁸

⁸ Καταρτίζω.

⁹ Πραΰτης.

¹⁰ Romans 14:15 - If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

¹¹ Galatians 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Next, you need to have a different attitude toward yourself. ¹⁹

Verse 3 through 5 continue, If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

Although you should help the other brother, you are still responsible for your own burden. ²⁰

The word load ¹², here, is a burden that can be carried alone. ²¹ The more mature you are in the faith, the heavier the burden you can carry. ²²

Even if you are the stronger brother who can handle heavier burdens, don't brag about it! ¹³ Bragging isn't the way to "win friends and influence people". ²³ You may not be as big as you think you are! Verse 3, **If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he**

¹² Φορτίον.

¹³ Galatians 6:4 - . . . without comparing himself to somebody else . . .

deceives himself. ²⁴ You can be proud of work well done, just don't broadcast it! ¹⁴ ²⁵

Next, **you need to have a different attitude towards your preacher.** ²⁶ Verse 6 says, **Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.** In other words, a good preacher deserves a salary! ²⁷ **Share** ¹⁵, in the original language, is where we get our word "coin". It is something we share in common. The Bible often translates this word "fellowship". ²⁸ **Good things** ¹⁶ are those things that benefit, like money! ²⁹ Lord Jesus said, . . . **for the worker deserves his wages,** ¹⁷ as did the Apostle Paul.

¹⁸ ³⁰

The second thing about the Law of Love is that . . .

¹⁴ Galatians 6:4 - Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else . . .

¹⁵ Κοινωνέω.

¹⁶ ἀγαθός.

¹⁷ Luke 10:7.

¹⁸ I Timothy 5:18 - The worker deserves his wages.

II. It Demands a Definite Commitment – v7-8

It demands a definite commitment.

Verses 7 and 8, **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ³¹

A farmer reaps what he sows! ³²

You have a definite choice to make. Whatever you plant you will reap. ³³ You must decide what crop will benefit you the most and then, commit yourself to it. ³⁴

As God's natural laws of reproduction cannot be mocked, neither can His spiritual ones! ³⁵ The word mocked ¹⁹ means to sneer at. It literally means, “to turn up your nose” at. ³⁶

God wants you to make a definite commitment to the Spiritual orientation for your life.

¹⁹ Μυκτηρίζω.

Many, for instance, believe they can play with sex. But God means for you to make a definite commitment sexually to one person for the rest of your life. ³⁷

Now, for verse 8, The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

If you “sow” to please your natural desire, you will “reap” what that life offers – **destruction! ³⁸ But – if you “sow” to please the Spirit of God, you will “reap” what the Spirit offers – **eternal life!** ³⁹**

The final thing about the Law of Love in this scripture is . . .

III. It Demands a Disciplined Tolerance

– v9-10

It demands disciplined tolerance. 40

Verses 9 and 10, Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

You must never become weary as you live this Spirit oriented life. Sometimes it seems like the world-oriented person is the one who prospers. Here I am having a rough time financially and he gets everything on a silver platter! Here I am having one tragedy after another, and he doesn't know what heartache is! 41

But the world-oriented person will experience heartache at the judgment!

Patience and faithfulness to God bring joy and peace ultimately in the eternal rest. Self pleasure is for this life only. But – this life will end! 42

So – while this life is here and you have the opportunity, give of yourself to others and especially to the household of faith!

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