

Galatians

Chapter 6

Introduction:

1. In this final chapter, Paul gets very practical and will show several different examples of what a walk in the Spirit looks like.
2. When a local church has members that are walking in the Spirit, it reveals itself in many wonderful ways.
3. The fruit of the Spirit is visibly demonstrated in the actions of believers.
4. The fruit of the Spirit is not vague and mysterious. It is practical and visible in the everyday lives of people.

Verse 1

1. Do you want to know if you are walking in the Spirit? There is not a better test than when you receive word that a fellow believer has fallen into sin.
 - This separates the legalist from the grace believer rather quickly.
2. The legalist can have several different reactions:
 - A judgmental spirit - "I knew it would happen. It doesn't surprise me."
 - Gossip and slander - He can't wait to tell someone else the news. "I have a prayer request."
 - Inwardly delighted - Because it makes the legalist feel superior or at least not as bad.
 - Phaiseeism - Stone them, kick them while they are down. "They deserve everything they are getting."
 - Holier-than-thou - "How could anybody do something like that?"
3. Paul says that a spiritual person has a completely different reaction.
 - Remember what it means to be spiritual. It simply means that you are walking in the Spirit and Christ is living His life through you.
4. How does a spiritual believer respond?
 - a. The spiritual believer doesn't believe the bad report until he has to.**
 - Notice the word, "if."
 - Our attitude is, "I won't receive this gossip and slander unless I can get two or three independent witnesses to confirm it (**Deuteronomy 19:15; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28**). Then I have to investigate whether it's true or not before I believe it."
 - Christian maturity says, "I'm going to believe the best about you until I absolutely have proof that I can't do it. Then I'm still going to believe that you are my brother or sister in Christ and we can handle it no matter what the problem." That is called "grace."
 - b. The spiritual believer seeks to restore the fallen brother or sister.**
 - The word "restore" carries the idea of mending a net or setting a broken bone.
 - You don't go to anyone else. You go to them with a spirit of meekness (gentleness and humility) and seek to restore them back to fellowship with the Lord and the church.

c. The spiritual believer examines his own heart.

- The word "consider" means "to take aim at (spy)."
- When a believer sins, **legalism** says, "I need to take aim at him", but **grace** says, "I need to take aim at me."
- You allow the Holy Spirit to search **your** heart for attitudes of pride, arrogance, bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, hostility, etc."
- If a fellow believer falls into sin, his sin can be a source of temptation for **you** by responding in a fleshly way.

Verse 2

1. The word "burden" in this verse carries the idea of a weight that is sending a person down, a heavy load that he cannot bear or sustain by himself.
 - What does legalism say? "What is your problem? Why can't you measure up? You made your own bed, now you have to lie in it."
 - What does grace say? "Let me come and help you bear this heavy load. We can get through this trial together."
2. This kind of Spirit-filled attitude fulfills the law of Christ, which is love.
Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:10

Verse 3

1. The attitude portrayed in this verse is the opposite of love.
2. Why is this man said to be nothing? Because he is focused on himself. When he compares himself with the sinful, burdened brother of verses 1 & 2, he comes out looking good in his **own** eyes.
3. But it is only self-delusion because **1 Corinthians 13:2-3** teaches that you may look outwardly wonderful, but if you lack love, you are "nothing."
4. We may think that we are a cut above, but without love and forgiveness, we're nothing (except a hypocrite).

Verse 4

- We cannot compare ourselves with each other because ultimately every man will have to prove his own work. This proving (or testing) will be done on judgment day. **1 Corinthians 3:13**

Verse 5

1. This word "burden" is a different Greek word than the word used for burden in verse 2.
 - This word carries the idea of our task or service.
2. This verse (along with verse 4) is teaching personal responsibility and accountability for our own actions, attitudes, and service.
 - **Romans 14:12** declares, "*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*"
3. To sum up verses 1-5:
 - A spiritual believer seeks to help the fellow believer who is struggling with sin and beat down by trials.

- But, while helping him, he doesn't get puffed up with a feeling of superiority, nor does he compare himself with him.
- He realizes that he must personally give account of himself to God one day.