

Doing Good
Galatians 6:6-10

Introduction: One of the core messages of Galatians is that we are free from the law. This freedom from the law, however, is not freedom to do whatever we want. It is freedom to serve one another in love (5:13). It is freedom to do good. This is what life in the Spirit produces - doing good. In the passage that we are looking at today, Paul specifically talks about areas of goodness that will be expressed as we live life in the Spirit. May we be encouraged to excel still more in living lives of doing good.

Opening Discussion: What is one good thing that happened to you this week?

Read Galatians 6:6-10

1. What sticks out to you from this passage?
2. In the context of this passage, what does it mean that "God is not mocked" (v. 7)?
3. What does it mean to sow to one's flesh? to the Spirit (v. 8)?

Brian said:

Some of you have a person in your life that is really hard to be around. This person is often hurtful to you and inconsiderate of you. But you? You are trying to walk in the Spirit in this area. You are trying to do good by not returning insult for insult. Instead of saying hurtful things back you are seeking to express love and kindness. You are being patient with them. But nothing changes. This person continues to be just as difficult as ever. They are just as hurtful and insensitive. In a situation like this it might be tempting to think, "What's the point? What's the good of being patient or kind to this person?" It's tempting to lose heart and give up sowing to the Spirit in this situation. I think Paul is saying to us in this situation and the dozens of other life situations that we face and don't immediately reap good things that we need to stay convinced that we will reap what we sow. *In due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.* Sowing and reaping are often separated by time, but we will reap what we sow, so keep doing good.

4. Is there any area of your life right now where you are finding it hard to keep sowing to the Spirit by doing good?
5. How does Paul's challenge in verse 9 affect how you think about this area?

6. What encourages you to keep doing good when it is tempting to give up?

Brian said:

There are divinely given opportunities that are set before us. While we have these opportunities we need to do good. There is no guarantee about tomorrow and so if the opportunity presents itself today, seize the opportunity and do good to others. And Paul says that we should show no partiality. We are to do good to *all men*. As a church we believe that this is part of our calling here in Manhattan. God wants us to do good to all people. We don't exist for just our own benefit; we exist to do good for all people. And the good that we are to do is not just sharing the message of Christ, but it is also looking at the opportunities that God is putting before us to love people and to meet all kinds of needs and then doing them.

7. What opportunities do you have to "do good to all men" in your life (v. 10)?
8. Why do you think Paul makes it a priority for us to do good especially to those who are of the household of faith (v. 10)?
9. Brian mentioned three areas through which we can do good to other believers: our words, our time and our material resources. Is there any area where you sense you need to give more attention in doing good to those who are believers?
10. What do you sense is the main thing God has been speaking to you about from this passage?