

"You Who Are Spiritual" Galatians 5:24-6:10

There is a natural order in the universe that cannot be violated without consequence. This natural order covers not just the physical but also the spiritual. When we "sow" (feed, invest in, nurture, etc.) the flesh (our innate drive to live independently from God), life won't work right. However, when we "sow" to the Spirit (orient our lives around listening to and following God's Spirit), our lives will display the fruit of the Spirit, especially a love for one another that helps one another become and grow as "spiritual" people.

As Paul begins to wrap up his discussion with the Galatian believers, he is persuading the Galatians to become "spiritual people"

Gal. 6:1-10

- "sow" to the Spirit = walk acc. to Spirit = "Mindset" of the Spirit
- Life ordered around the Spirit; directed by the Spirit

I. The "Carnal" Person

A. Characteristics

1. Description – 5:19-21

Lists of virtues and vices was common in ancient world.
15 examples without order; merely representative
Over half are relational

2. Behavior – 5:15, 26

Flesh => Broken relationships; not trust

B. Consequences

1. Unhealthy earthly relationships

1 Cor. 3:1-3; characteristics of "babes in Christ"

6:8 - "corruption" (decay, rot; natural processes of fallen world)

Untended life is like an accidental science project

2. Discipline – restore such a one; 6:1; Heb. 12:7

“misstep”; trespass; off of the path

3. Disinheritance – 5:21

II. The “Spiritual” Person – 6:1

A. Character of spiritual people – 5:22-23

Not a list of commands. Consequence of following the Spirit

Psalm 1:1-3

How?

- Know – 5:24; Rom. 6:1-7
- Reckon – 6:8-11
- Present – 6:12-14
Rom. 8:5-8

According to flesh
According to Spirit
Spiritual “mindset”

Who through practice have their senses trained

You and I are presenting ourselves to the flesh

- Belong – Gal. 5:13; 6:2

Most are relational

Your spiritual maturity is worked out in the context of relationships primarily

Most trials involve other people

Some are internal (joy and peace), but spiritual orientation toward life can and should be expressed in concrete ways.

B. Activities of spiritual people – specific actions or results of being Spirit-led

Restorer, reconciler – 6:1

Vivid imagery – keep in step...those who have misstepped

Likely, given their history

Judaizers – moral mis-steps need a good dose of law.

Paul – need a good dose of love

Bear others burdens – 6:2

Ps. 68:19: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation.

Flesh – oriented toward self
Freedom – free from thinking only of myself

C. Blessing of spiritual people – 6:3-5

Reward – bring God pleasure. Can't make Him love you more.

6:8-9 = reaping "eternal life"; fruit of the Spirit. And future reward

Basis of reward? 6:3; James – that man's religion is worthless

Accurate and inaccurate evaluation of a life

Individually – 6:5

- We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ

Faithfulness – 6:10 (as we have opportunity); 1 Cor. 4:1-2

- Paul not evaluated by comparison with Peter

Motive – man looks at outward appearance. 1 Cor. 4:5

Not "outcomes" – can't guarantee how your child will turn out. Can't make someone else trust Christ, grow in the faith, respond to you in kindness.

Application

- What will you do to STOP orienting your life around your flesh?
- What will you do to START (or excel still more) orienting your life around the Spirit?
- What did we miss in our study of Galatians?