

How to Live by the Spirit

Galatians 6:1-18

Key Verse: 6:

I. A Man Reaps What He Sows

1. How should those who live by the Spirit treat those caught in sin? (1a) What is involved in "restoring" someone gently? (Mt18:15--17; 2Co2:6--8) What dangers should we be aware of? (1b) Read verse 2. How can we fulfill the law of Christ? (5:14; Ro12:15; 15:1--3) How are the "burdens" in verse 2 and "load" in verse 5 different? In Christian community, why is it important to carry each other's burdens?

2. What mentality can hinder us from carrying others' burdens? (3; Php2:3--4) How can we see ourselves soberly? (4; Ro12:3) While helping others, why should we not excuse ourselves from carrying our own load? (5) What should we do for those who helped us study and understand God's word? (6)

3. Read verse 7. What does this teach us about God? What is the universal principle here, which governs all human endeavors? How did Paul apply this principle to our spiritual lives both negatively and positively? (8) Why is it so important to please the Spirit rather than our sinful nature?

4. Read verse 9. In light of Paul's previous teachings, what did he mean by "doing good"? (5:13b; 6:1,2,6; 2Ti4:2) Why might people become weary or be ready to give up? What promise and hope help us to persevere and overcome? (9b) Read verse 10. In light of the assurance of the harvest, when should we do good? (Jn9:4) For whom? Why especially for the family of believers?

II. A New Creation

5. How did Paul authenticate this letter? (11; cf. 2Th3:17) How did this accentuate the authority of his teachings? What were the motives of those insisting on circumcision? (12--13) What did Paul mean by "boast about your flesh"? (3:29; 4:17) In focusing on outward appearances, how did they reveal their hypocrisy? (13a) Why did Paul's preaching the cross of Christ bring about persecution? (5:11; 1Co1:22--23)

6. Read verse 14. How did Paul's boast contrast with the Judaizers'? What does it mean to boast (or "glory"--KJV) only in the cross of Christ? (2:20; 3:13) What does it mean to "be crucified to the world"? How does Paul's testimony serve as a model for all of us?

7. Read verse 15. What is the only thing that counts? How can we become a "new creation"? (2:16; 3:2,5,26--27) What does it mean to live as a new creation? (4:6; 5:1,6, 13,16,22--23; 6:8,14)

8. What is the universal rule Paul laid down for all churches? (16) What blessings come to those who follow it? (16a) Practically, how can we keep our ministry focused on becoming and living as new creations? In light of Paul's teachings in Galatians, who is the "Israel of God"? (3:28--29; 4:26,28) What characterizes this new community? How did Paul share his agony with them? (17) What did he mean by "the marks of Jesus"? (Ac14:19--20) What final blessing did he bestow upon them? (18)