

“Love One Another”

Galatians- week #12

WRAP-UP

When Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it” he knew that the enemy would attack the unity and loving relationship that God intended for the believers who are His church. Division is at the heart of those attacks. But Paul is showing the Galatians a better way. He wants us to see that a fallen brother is a valuable part of the body, who should be humbly and gently restored. We can’t let ourselves fall victim to self-focused conceitedness of pride or envy. If we do, we may try to make ourselves look better at the expense of others. But when we realize the grace we have received from God and other believers, we’ll respond to others with grace, willing to love one another sacrificially as only God’s spirit can enable us to do.

Memory Verse

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.
Galatians 6:1a NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- This week be aware of the way you respond in situations like these- when you are criticized, when you are discussing people who are very different from you, when you see someone fallen into sin. Are you displaying the kind of other-focused attitudes found in the one another verses?

INTRODUCTION

We are the church. Maybe you’ve heard that before. Or maybe you just think of the church as the building where we gather. But when Paul talks about the church he’s not talking about the place, neither is he talking about the head pastor or the staff who work in the office. The church is a term applied to the people who gathered together in Christ’s name to follow him. And it is how we treat one another that shows the world we are in fact followers of Jesus. Paul wanted the believers in the Galatian “church” to treat one another as members of one unified body because the way we treat one another should be shaped by what Christ has done for us.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

How many churches have you been a part of?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. The Church, One Body

Galatians 5:26 NLT - 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another. Galatians 6:1-5 - 1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. 4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. 5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

The church in Galatia was anything but unified. Their dispute over the need for circumcision caused deep division. But we can see in verse 1 that Paul is viewing them collectively as his brothers. What does Paul

tell them to do for a brother caught in sin? What do you think are some of the reasons we choose not to restore someone caught in sin?

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Look back at the fruit of the spirit. Which of these fruits can be used to accomplish what Paul calls on the Galatians to do for a brother caught in sin? Don't forget, the source of that fruit is submission to God.

2. The One Anothers

John 13:35 ESV - 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Matthew 22:37-39 NLT - 37 Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

The Galatians were very focused on attempting to fulfill the Law of Moses, but what did Paul tell them was the way to fulfill the Law of Christ (Gal 6.2)? The same idea is expressed in John 13:35 and Mat. 22:39. These verses all call us to extend grace to our brothers. Grace can be described as unmerited favor or getting what you don't deserve.

*Galatians 6:2 ESV - 2 Bear **one another's** burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 5:14, 26 - 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ... 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking **one another**, envying **one another**. Colossians 3:13 - 13 bearing with **one another** and, if one has a complaint **against another**, forgiving **each other**; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Ephesians 4:32 - 32 Be kind to **one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving **one another**, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 5:21 - 21 submitting to **one another** out of reverence for Christ. Hebrews 3:13 - 13 But exhort **one another** every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

Can you recall an instance when grace was extended to you? How did that impact you?

In Galatians 5:26 Paul points out that we should not become conceited. That means we are not to be self-focused. There are many "one another" verses in the Bible and they all turn our focus off of our needs and onto the needs of others. The above verses are not exhaustive but look at both the things they say we should do and things we should not do to one another. Do these seem unfair to you? Why should we defer to someone else if we are in the right? (hint- the answer is woven throughout these texts)

3. Response of God's People

Galatians 6:1, 3 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted..... 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

The arrival of Social Media has heightened our inclination to compare ourselves with others. But the Gospel creates a whole new way of seeing ourselves that is not based on comparison with others. Paul tells the Galatians to restore a wandering brother with gentleness. It takes humility to do this. If you are eager to share their failings with others (gossip) consider how you would feel if your worst moments were broadcast for the world to see. In fact, in the same passage we are warned that we may be tempted too. What is the error we may fall into according to verse 3?

What are some of the transgressions you might have an opportunity to address in a brother's life? How would you approach them in humility and gentleness to begin their restoration? A good first step might be to check your own motivation. If you are doing it to show them you are right, and they are wrong, you need to check your humility gauge. If you see your brother through God's eye's you will have compassion for the pain they are suffering because of what they are doing, and long to see them restored without inflicting further pain.