

1. We are going to continue with our series from the book of Galatians chapter 6.
2. The main theme of this passage has to do with the Law of Sowing and Reaping.
3. And while we said that this is a universal law that can be applied to any area of our lives, in the context of Galatians six, verses 1-10, it applies to our relationship with other believers in Jesus.
4. **Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
5. Being deceived is believing something that isn't true.
6. As it relates to our relationships with other believers, there is a deception that has been spread by the enemy, and maybe even the church, and that is that our relationship with Jesus Christ is private and personal.
7. Meaning, that relationship is between just that believer and God.
8. Meaning, as it relates to sin and failure and spiritual growth and spiritual maturity, all of that takes place between God and that person, separated from, and removed from our relationship with other believers.
9. Not long ago I was reading a book about making disciples.
10. The title of the book is The Great Omission.
11. I shared with you last week that the great commission, which is found in Matthew chapter 28 tells us to go and make disciples.
12. **Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
13. The author, who I know was well meaning and trying to emphasize the importance of obeying the Lord states that in the church rather than obeying the great commission, that we have omitted or excluded ourselves from making disciples.
14. We have omitted the importance of obeying this command.
15. I was so excited when I started reading the book, because as I mentioned last week, for the past year, our various leadership teams have been talking about the subject of making disciples.

16. We've been asking questions. What is a disciple. How are disciples made. How can I tell if I am a true disciple of Jesus.
17. I was anxious to read about how we could come back to the command of Jesus and obey what he told us to do.
18. But the further I got along in the book, the more discouraged I became, because page after page the message is that being a disciple of Jesus is something that happens between just us and God.
19. I become a disciple as I read my bible and pray and commit myself to God. Alone. And that is partially true.
20. But what is missing is intimate relationships with other believers.
21. When Jesus called the original 12 disciples, he did not relate to them just one on one, he related to them, and he taught them how to relate to one another.
22. Jesus made disciples not only in private, but also in a group setting. Jesus made disciples together with a group of believers.
23. Jesus and these twelve men spent great amounts of time together. They ate meals together. They traveled together. He corrected them and he taught them as they were doing life together.
24. And yet in 2022 we have omitted that part of the equation.
25. Today's thought process is, let's get together in a group setting, which is a good thing, but as it relates to sin and failure and struggle, you do you and I'll do me.
26. But that is contrary to what we see all throughout the word of God.
27. In verse one Paul does not tell the Galatian believers, if a brother or sister is caught in sin, just pray for them. Just let them work it out on their own. Don't bring it up to them and ask them about it, and for sure don't help them get victory over it. Paul didn't say that at all.
28. Here's what he did say. **Galatians 6:1** Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.
29. Paul says, if a brother is caught in sin, the spiritual solution, the Godly solution is to help restore that brother gently back into right relationship with Jesus.
30. And then last week we learned from vs. 3-6 that that restoration doesn't happen when we compare ourselves to one another.

31. In fact, comparing ourselves to one another will greatly hinder us from being intimately involved in one another's lives.
32. Usually, when I compare myself to someone else, I do it so I can feel good about myself and tell myself, well, compared to them I am doing ok.
33. And we tell ourselves that compared to them we are doing ok, so we can keep people at arm's length and not have to change.
34. And in doing so, we deceive ourselves into thinking that we are better than we really are.
35. In isolation from intimate relationship with other believers we are more likely to confuse the truth.
36. But in intimate relationship with other believers, we are more likely to be exposed to the truth and changed by the truth.
37. I made this statement last week and I believe it bears repeating.
38. This series of message has been stretching the stuffings out of me. It makes me uncomfortable. To be transparent, it rubs me the wrong way.
39. And yet, there it is plain as day in the word, and to ignore it or pretend that it doesn't apply to me is to mock God.
40. To act like I am better than God and that I know better than God.
41. But I don't.
42. So, let's be real with one another. How many would say by uplifted hand that this series of messages is stretching you?
43. How many would say this series of messages makes me uncomfortable?
44. How many would say, but I want to obey the Lord and I want to live by the truth of God's word?
45. So, let's continue on.

TEXT: **Galatians 6:7-8** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **8** Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

TITLE: **Examining Your Seed.**

INTRO:

1. As we have said, the example that Paul uses to illustrate this truth is an example from agriculture or farming.
2. Whatever kind of seed I put in the ground will determine what kind of harvest I will experience.
3. There was a movie several years ago and 3 men planted a garden. They bought the seed from a traveling salesman and planted it all.
4. The seed came in different packets that had pictures on them.
5. Breen beans. Lettuce. Tomatoes. Squash. Okra. They didn't have any experience with seed, so they assumed that whatever the packet said was the kind of seed they were sowing.
6. They got it all planted, but when it started to sprout up, they quickly noticed that all the plants looked the same.
7. It wasn't until the plants began to produce that they realized that instead of having a garden with all these various types of vegetables, they had a garden full of corn. Nothing but corn.
8. There is a spiritual lesson here. It really doesn't matter what kind of seed you think you're sowing, what matters is what kind of seed you are truly sowing.
9. Because whatever kind of seed you are truly sowing is what will determine what we reap or harvest.
10. So, because of that, in spiritual terms it is highly important that we examine our seed to ensure that we are going to get the outcome that we really desire.
11. According to Paul, when it comes to our spiritual lives, there are only two outcomes. There are only two types of harvest that we can expect.
12. We can be mistaken. We can be deceived and believe what isn't the truth. We can believe that we can sit somewhere in the middle and live somewhere in the middle of these two outcomes, but the truth is there are only two.
13. The first harvest is destruction. And the second harvest is eternal life.
14. The first harvest is eternal destruction. Hell.
15. The second harvest is eternal life. Heaven.

16. And like our three friends who didn't know anything about seed, it's highly possible to sow the wrong thing and not really see the outcome, or the harvest until it's too late.
17. So, what is the seed that Paul talks about. It is the seed of the flesh, or the seed of the Spirit.
18. Dumb question for the day. Has anybody noticed that each and every day that there appears to be a battle going on inside us?
19. Have you ever felt like you are being pulled in two completely opposite directions?
20. That's because you are. Inside of each and every one of us there is a battle raging. It is the battle between our flesh, and the Spirit of God.
21. In the previous chapter. Galatians chapter 5, Paul gives a detailed description of what these two forces in our life look like.
22. But before he gives the description, he explains what is happening inside us.
23. Galatians 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.
24. So, on the inside of each and every one of us there are these two opposing forces.
25. There is the flesh, or what we would call our sinful nature. And that sinful nature, that part of us that leans toward rebellion and doing our own thing, with the help of Satan and his demons, is constantly pulling us, trying to get us to reject God and sin against him.
26. And then there is inside of us the Spirit of God. And the Spirit of God is constantly reminding us of the truth, and drawing us toward cooperation and surrender to God and his ways.
27. How many are still with me?
28. So, Paul goes on to describe how our flesh or sinful nature is trying to get us to rebel and act.
29. Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
30. So, our flesh, our sinful nature is constantly trying to draw us away

from God by getting us to act in ways that separate us from God.

31. And our flesh or sinful nature has one mission. And that is destruction. If we give in to our flesh, or we sow into our flesh, or we feed our flesh, then the result is that we will not inherit the kingdom of God (heaven)
32. And then there is the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God constantly desires to grow inside of us so that our lives will produce fruit that benefits not only ourselves but those around us. Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit this way.
33. Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.
34. Just as our flesh has a mission, the Spirit of God inside us has a mission. And that mission is to lead us toward not only fruitful life in this world, but eternal life in heaven.
35. How many are still with me?
36. Because of time I will move on.
37. So how is this spiritual battle that is raging inside of us won.
38. According to the verses that follow, the spiritual battle is won when we crucify the flesh, and keep in step with the spirit.
39. Galatians 5:24-25 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
40. So, every time the flesh rises up, we have to crucify it, or oppose it, or kill it, or starve it. And instead, we have to choose to walk with and follow the Spirit of God inside us.
41. Now. On paper that is pretty straight forward. Crucify the flesh and keep in step with the Spirit.
42. But how many have discovered that in real life it is anything but straight forward.
43. Getting up, out of bed each and every day, knowing that there is a battle raging inside of us is exhausting.
44. Because the flesh doesn't want to stay crucified. And not only does the flesh not want to stay crucified, Paul says there are many different characteristics or acts of the flesh, and if I am going to be victorious, I have to crucify each of them individually.

45. Meaning our crucifying of the flesh is an ongoing endeavor.
46. Thank the Lord however, we also have the Spirit of God living inside of us and the Spirit of God is continually willing to give us strength and guide us and give us wisdom and insight so we can navigate the path that leads us away from destruction and toward eternal life.
47. So, yes. The battle is real, and it is difficult and messy and yes, the Holy Spirit is with us to lead us toward victory, but we need to know one more thing. (pause)
48. Because if we attempt to take that truth. And it is the truth. But if we attempt to take that truth and we try and crucify the flesh and we try and keep in step with the Spirit, but we attempt to do it alone without being in close, intimate relationship with other believers, the other truth is we can still fall flat on our faces and more than likely crash and burn.
49. How do we know that is the truth?
50. Because right after Paul describes the spiritual battle.
51. And right after he identifies how the flesh operates.
52. And right after he identifies what the Spirit wants to produce in us.
53. And right after he tells us that the key to victory is to crucify the flesh and walk with the Spirit, he includes one more thing.
54. And on the surface, it might seem that the one more thing that he includes is out of place. But the reality is it isn't out of place.
55. In fact, this one more thing is kind of like the glue that holds these truths together.
56. Let me read the last three verses together.
57. Galatians 5:24-26 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.
58. Crucify the flesh. Keep in step with the Spirit... AND. Everybody say and. AND
59. Let's make sure we keep in proper relationship with other believers. Don't become conceited and provoke and envy each other. Things that will cause division and separation among us.
60. Instead, turn the page. Enter chapter 6. (chapter designations are inserted by man)

61. Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
62. Brothers and sisters. If someone is caught in sin. (my words) If someone is having difficulty crucifying the flesh and keeping it in the grave, you who live by the spirit help them.
63. Help them do what? Help restore them. Get down in the sin pit with them and help them kill the flesh and walk with them so they will get back into step with the Spirit and be restored back into right relationship.

Conclusion:

1. And that right there church is why the enemy is so dedicated to getting us to live in the deception that your relationship with God is between you and him alone, and my relationship with God is between me and him alone.
2. Because the enemy doesn't care if we know some of the truth, just as long as we don't know and live by the whole truth.
3. And the whole truth is this.
4. All of us have a sinful nature that wants to destroy us.
5. All of us at times give in to that sinful nature and we fail.
6. And all of us have access to the Spirit of God that wants to lead us toward eternal life.
7. And because of that all of us need to be in close, intimate relationship with other believers because we were never meant to try and live for the Lord on our own.
8. We were created to live for the Lord in relationship with other believers.
9. The Lord God established this truth from the very beginning of time.
10. Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
11. It is not good for us to be alone in this spiritual journey toward heaven, we need help. We need together.
12. Is together always easy? No.
13. Is together sometimes messy? Yes.

14. And yet it is God's way and God's will for our lives.
15. So again. Like the weeks before. I'm not asking you to develop a plan for what that looks like. Right now, our goal is to get this truth cemented into our hearts and minds so that it becomes the foundation for how we live for the Lord.
16. Prayer.
17. This morning will you join me in practicing doing what Paul told the Galatians to do?
18. To crucify the flesh and get into step with the Spirit?
19. There could be many reasons why we feel this way. But so often our flesh wants to keep others at arm's length.
20. But today, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and in unity with my church family I crucify the flesh.
21. And I commit to be in step with the Spirit as he shows me what to do next.