

1. We are going to begin a new series this morning taken from the book of Galatians chapter 6.
2. In this chapter there is what probably is a familiar couple of verses that you may have read or heard a message about.
3. If you've ever listened to me then you've heard this truth before.
4. The verses I am talking about are about the subject of **the Law of Sowing and Reaping**. And that will be the focus of this series.
5. But like our last series, we are going to consider this familiar passage in the context in which it was written.
6. In other words, the circumstances around these verses.
7. **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.
8. So, the Apostle Paul, who is the writer of this letter to a group of churches in a region of the world called Galatia, uses a verbal image to teach a truth.
9. That image is of a sowing and reaping society. Almost everyone of that day would have understood the illustration. Whatever I sow is what I am going to reap.
10. In a literal sense. If I sow corn into the ground, what will come up and produce, and what I will harvest is corn.
11. If I sow wheat, then I will reap wheat. You get the idea.
12. The reverse of that is also true. If I sow potatoes, I will not reap okra. If I sow tomatoes, I will not reap watermelon.
13. So, this law of sowing and reaping can very easily be applied to agriculture and growing food. But this law is also a universal law that can literally be applied to every area of our lives and existence.
14. It is a law. Meaning that when God created the heavens and the earth and when he created mankind in his own image, he instituted this law, he put it into existence.
15. This law is simply the stating of a truth that cannot be changed. It is the truth of how life in this world operates and functions.
16. There is no sense in debating the law because the law is what God has made it to be. Whatever you sow, that is what you will reap.

17. This law is so universally accepted that even people who do not believe in or have a relationship with Jesus Christ declare and proclaim this law to be truth.
18. For those who do not know the Lord, they may use the word karma.
19. Karma is a Hindu or Buddhist word that says a person's previous actions will determine their future fate.
20. Now. I do not believe in karma. Not because the meaning of karma isn't accurate or true. The meaning is very accurate and true.
21. I don't believe in karma because karma tries to apply the law of sowing and reaping to life, only it leaves out the very one who instituted the law in the first place and that is the Lord God almighty.
22. So, **the law of sowing and reaping** is so universally accepted that even Satan knows it is the truth, he just tries to package that truth in a way that moves us away from the Lord rather than toward the Lord.
23. The law of sowing and reaping is so powerful that you don't even have to have faith in Jesus Christ for it to affect, and work in your life.
24. Even unbelievers who sow generosity will reap generosity.
25. Even unbelievers who sow faithfulness will reap faithfulness.
26. Even unbelievers who sow kindness will reap kindness.
27. It is simply the way God made the world to work.
28. How many are still with me.
29. So, let's take this law of sowing and reaping that Paul states here to the Galatian churches, and let's put into context. Let's look at the circumstances surrounding the statement.
30. The letter of Galatians was written to several churches in the region that Paul had founded or help establish on his first missionary journey.
31. So, the people he is writing to are believers in Jesus Christ. They are Christ followers. He is not speaking to the lost. Those who are completely without God. He is talking to people who have a genuine love for the Lord.
32. And it is that fact, along with a couple of extremely powerful words used by Paul that actually make this a very unsettling passage of scripture.

33. I tell people often that long before I ever bring a message from the Lord to share with you, the Lord has worked me over with that truth. Meaning, the Holy Spirit has challenged me and molded me and insisted that I submit to the truth of God's word.
34. That is not to say I always get it right, because I do not. But I always try and make sure I have applied the truth to my life before I ask you to apply it to your life, or else I probably won't preach it.
35. And so, over the past several weeks, as the Holy Spirit has spoken to and moved in my own life, I have begun to view this short passage with a great amount reverence and respect for God's truth.
36. Because Paul uses two very weighty words when proclaiming this truth to the Galatian believers.
- 37. 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.
38. Again, Paul is talking to believers in Jesus Christ, and he says to them, do not be deceived.
39. Part of the reason why that is so powerful is that saying it wouldn't have been necessary if it couldn't happen. If what could happen?
40. For believers to be deceived. Here is a very scary truth that I see in this verse.
- 41. Not only is it possible, but it might even be probable, for us to be sincere, God loving, Christ following believers, and at the same time be deceived about something.**
42. In other words, to believe something that isn't actually true.
43. I will confess. Over my lifetime I have been deceived about many different things. I have believed things that simply were not true.
44. I have believed things about God that were not true. I have believed things about myself that were not true. And, I have believed things about others that were not true.
45. Oh, and by the way. While we are confessing our shortcomings, are you aware that you too have been deceived by things in your life? That you have believed things that were not true.

46. That really shouldn't come as a surprise to any of us because in fact we are told in the word of God that Satan, our enemy is in fact a deceiver. Deceiving is what he does.

47. Revelation 12:9 This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. (NLT)

48. So, part of our spiritual battle is that we are in a tug-of-war.

49. On the one hand we have God who wants us to know and live by the truth, because living by the truth brings life.

50. But on the other hand, we are constantly being influenced by a deceiving enemy who continually hides or conceals the truth, because he knows if he can get us to live according to a lie that we will experience spiritual death.

51. That's why we must continually and constantly take what we believe and hold it up to the truth of God's word to see if our belief measures up to the truth.

52. However, as unpleasant as it is for me to consider and accept that I can be deceived and base my life on something that isn't the truth, being deceived is the lighter of the two words that Paul uses.

53. Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

54. So, when I am deceived, I don't know the truth. And I don't know that I don't know the truth. When I am deceived, I don't know what I don't know.

55. But when I know the truth, or become aware of the truth, that changes everything.

56. When I become aware of or know the truth then I become responsible for what I do with that truth.

57. James put it this way James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. (NIV)

58. When I don't know then I don't know. But the moment I do know the truth, then I am responsible to act upon the truth.

59. And if I know the truth, but I don't act upon the truth, then that is the definition of sin.

60. And what Paul does for the Galatians is he gives them insight into how God views our not receiving and acting upon the truth.

61. Paul says, do not be deceived, don't act like you don't know the truth when you really do, because God will not be mocked.

62. How does God feel about our not obeying and surrendering to His truth? He sees it as mocking.

63. To mock someone is to treat them with contempt (as though they are beneath you), or to ridicule (dismiss as unimportant).

64. When God's spirit shows us the truth, and rather than accepting the truth and allowing that truth to change our lives, God's attitude is NOT to just shrug it off.

65. His attitude is you are mocking me. You are acting as though I am beneath you and that I am unimportant.

66. As I said before, those are some pretty heavy words.

67. Can I ask you something? Is there some area of your life where the Holy Spirit has been dealing with you, and he has been showing you truth, and he has been trying to get you to conform your life to the truth, but as of yet you have not surrendered to the truth?

68. Will you stop and consider exactly how God feels about that?
(Pause)

69. So, that is the foundation of this passage of scripture and the foundation of the law of sowing and reaping.

70. For the next few minutes, let's start building the building on the foundation.

71. In order to do that, let's look at exactly what truth Paul is telling them to not be deceived about and not mock God with.

72. Again, we could apply the law of sowing and reaping to any and every area of life. Tithe, offering, kindness, serving, etc.

73. But in the book of Galatians, Paul is referring specifically to our relationship with other believers.

74. 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.

75. This is what Paul was referring to when he declared the law of sowing and reaping. Paul is saying, don't be deceived about how your relationship with other believers is supposed to function, and when you

know the truth about how God wants it to function, don't mock God by ignoring the truth that you now know.

76. So, let's look at...

The deception.

1. There is a deception that has taken over the world's mindset, and I fear this mindset has crept into the church.
2. I am not sure exactly when this deception took hold in our world, or when we as the church accepted it as truth when it really is not.
3. But what I do know is that if we don't identify and correct this deception and take decisive action to live and function by the truth, the church as God intended it will cease to exist.
4. **What is the deception?** It is the deception that matters of faith in Jesus Christ. Matters of our walk with Jesus Christ. Matters pertaining to our relationship with God the father are intended to be private or personal.
5. Meaning, my relationship with God is between me and God and no one else.
6. That your relationship with God is between you and God and no one else.
7. That matters of sin and failure are between us and God only, and no one else needs to, our should be involved.
8. Even worse, I believe in some respects the church has mistakenly believed that everybody doing their own thing between them, and God is spiritual, and healthy, and Godly.
9. We have mistakenly believed that is how God intended for us to live life with him.
10. I don't know about your experience, but I have literally been told by unbelievers, when attempting to talk to them about their relationship with the Lord, that that was between them and God. Meaning, I don't want to talk to you about it.
11. I don't know about your experience, but I have literally been told by well meaning, Christ following believers, that their faith in Jesus was between them and God. AKA. That's really none of your business.

12. Here is the problem with those beliefs. They are absolutely, utterly, and totally lies from the great deceiver himself.
13. **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.
14. It cannot be true that you are to do your thing and I am to do my thing when Paul explicitly says the opposite.
15. He does not tell the Galatian believers. Now. If someone is caught in a sin. Just pray for them. Don't get involved. Don't mention it to them. Don't bring it up.
16. He does not say that the Godly thing or the spiritual thing to do is to just let them and God work it out on their own.
17. Instead, he says, if someone who claims to be a brother or sister is caught in a sin, you who live by the spirit, those who are spiritual, those who are Godly, should step up and get involved and gently help them be restored back into right relationship with the Lord.
18. Please don't get nervous. I am not going to take this message and ask you to commit that from now on you are going to start immediately confronting all sin.
19. What I am asking you to do with this message is to accept the truth that we are not meant to all be little individual, separated, removed from one another lights just doing our own thing.
20. No sir. Paul says in verse 2 that we are to carry each other's burdens. What burdens?
21. Sure, we are to help those in need with financial help if necessary and prayer and kindness. But we are also to be here for one another to help assist with the burden of the messiness of everyday life.
22. We were created to be intimately involved in each other's life.
23. Paul goes on to say, if you will do this then you will fulfill the law of Christ.
24. What is the law of Christ? **John 13:34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
25. The law of Christ is that we are to love one another to the point that, not only are we willing to allow others to be intimately involved in the

nitty gritty of our faith, but that we are willing to step into the nitty gritty of the faith of others.

Conclusion:

1. To be clear, the law of Christ is not none ya. As in none ya business.
2. I dare you to read through the four gospels. You will not find anywhere that Jesus attitude was, well you do your thing and I'll do mine.
3. I won't bother you and you don't bother me.
4. I won't speak into your life, and you don't speak into mine.
5. Not at all. In fact, just the opposite.
6. Even though Jesus was the son of God. Even though he had laid down the beauty and the splendor of heaven, he willingly came to earth, and he got right down in the middle of the messiness of people's lives, and the law of Christ says that we are to love the same way.
7. But why pastor? Why would I want to risk doing that? Beyond the fact that we are commanded to, it is in fact dangerous for our spiritual lives when we are not intimately involved in each other's lives.
8. **Galatians 6:1** But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.
9. Why must I be willing to get down into the messiness of your life when you are struggling with trouble or temptation?
10. Because pretty soon I am going to need you to get down into the messiness of my life while I struggle with trouble and temptation.
11. Togetherness. Being intimately involved in one another's lives is the way we defeat the enemy's plan to wipe us all out.
12. **1 Peter 5:8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
13. Satan is continually prowling around, just like a lion, looking for the weak, the injured, those who have become separated from the rest of the herd, and when he get's them isolated he jumps in for the kill.
14. That's how I know this worldly mindset is not from God.
15. The mindset that our faith is to be private and personal, between just us and God sounds exactly like Satan.
16. As long as he can keep us isolated from one another, we are ripe for the picking.
17. And one by one he will take us out until there is no one left.

18. We must reject the deceptive lie of the enemy, and we must accept and respond to the truth.

19. Prayer.

20. Each week I ask you to do something with the word of God. This week is no different.

21. Chances are, like me, this truth from the word of God stretches you.

22. Chances are this truth from the word of God scares you.

23. Chances are this truth from the word of God takes you way out of your comfort zone.

24. Chances are, this truth from the word of God is foreign to what you have known in the past.

25. And yet it is the truth of God because it is for our good.

26. So, let's begin by being transparent with God.

27. If it scares you tell him.

28. If it makes you uncomfortable, tell him.

29. If it stretches you to the point of hurting, tell him.

30. But then tell him you are willing to accept the truth, and refuse to mock him by acting like you don't know the truth.

31. Speaking of mocking. Is there some area of your life the Holy Spirit has been trying to change, and you have resisted? Stop resisting.