

Growth Group Discussion – Quick Tour of the Bible

Discussion 5 – Freedom in Christ

Reading 20 Summary: Galatians 5

Paul discusses the different types of things a person does when they are led by their fleshly desires versus someone led by the Holy Spirit. Paul explains that good works flow out of the freedom found in Christ. If we live according to the flesh, we'll reap a life of destruction; that is, a life of ultimate decay. But we've been set free in Christ, so we walk according to the Spirit and reap eternal rewards.

Warm-Up

1. When was a time you had to carry something for a long period (a child, groceries, luggage)? What was that experience like?

Talk it Over

2. What from this week's readings stood out to you?
3. Read Galatians 5:26-6:10 In this passage, Paul discusses the reciprocal nature of relationships within the church. What are some practical examples of the heart attitudes in this passage? (*Put the goals and interests of others above my own, Live an honest and open life, Give and receive scriptural correction, Clear up relationships, Participate in the work of the church, Support the church financially, Follow leadership in the church within scriptural limits*)

Leader Note: Paul gives us lots of examples of how we are to relate to other believers. By carrying each other's burdens, we put the interests of others above our own. By not deceiving ourselves into thinking we are something we are not, we live honest and open lives. When we receive instruction and share it with our instructors we give and receive scriptural correction.

Galatians 5:26-6:10 "Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other. 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. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. ⁷ 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. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

- Why do you think conceit and envy are reasons for concern when you start making traction in doing good?

Leader Note: When Paul says, "doing good" he is talking about the practical ways that believers can help each other. If the group gets off track, point them back to the practical examples of the heart attitudes from the previous question.

4. The Greek word for "burden" (verse 2) is referring to a very heavyweight that overwhelms the one under it, while the word for "load" (verse 5) refers to the responsibilities of an individual.

Leader Note: God expects all of us to put forth effort and take responsibility for the things he has given us, and to manage our own load, however, as we share our burdens it provides opportunities for healing to come to hurting people through comfort from others that have also experienced similar hurt in the past. The warning to carry your own load is a reminder that each person will be responsible for the life they live before Christ and they will reap what they sow.

- What kinds of situations arise where others are “overwhelmed,” and it is appropriate for you to help?
- Can you think of situations where you should not help?
- How have you experienced both types of situations (loads and burdens) in your life? What have been some of the personal consequences or benefits based on what you did in those situations?

Take It Home

5. Verse 9-10 close with a warning to not become weary in doing good while making the most of opportunities we have to do good to all people.

Leader Note: The “doing good” could be living the Heart Attitudes. It could also be helping someone carry their burden or refraining from carrying someone’s load and making them responsible for what is theirs even if they choose not to.

- What is an area of your life where you are becoming weary in doing good?
- What are some opportunities you have this week to do good in this area?