



Law Abiding Citizen

THE GATHERING

TRIUMPHANT LIVING
IN TURBULENT TIMES: KINDNESS

A BIBLE STUDY PRESENTED BY
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SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Galatians 5:25-6:2, 7-10 NIV

- 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.
 - 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. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
 - ⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A person reaps what they sow. 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.
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Background

- Tension in the Text
 - Paul to the churches of Galatia [and the foolish Galatians!]
 - Paul vs the Judaizers
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Background



- The book of Galatians is a passionate and frustrated reminder to the young church in Galatia of the Gospel Jesus Christ.
 - It is Paul's fiery response to the false gospel that the Judaizers (Jewish Christians) were teaching in Galatia.
 - It is Paul's brokenhearted reaction to the "foolish" Galatians that gave in to the Judaizer's teachings, even though they knew better.
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Background

- The Judaizers were teaching:
 - *Gentile converts must become Jews first, then they could become Christian Jews*
 - *Gentile converts must first commit to and obey the laws of the Torah.*
 - *Gentile converts must be circumcised before they can become Christian Jews.*
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Background

- Paul Reiterated the Gospel:

- *He was commissioned by Jesus himself to be an apostle to the non-Jewish world.*
 - *The laws of the Torah did not justify people.*
 - *The laws of the Torah imprisoned everyone who was under those laws.*
 - *The laws of the Torah are good, but they gave us no power to obey and fulfill them.*
 - *A Summary: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39, Mark 12:29-31; & Luke 10:27)*
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Background

- Paul Reiterated the Gospel:
 - *We were made righteous by the faith of Jesus and our faith in Jesus and what he did for us on Calvary.*
 - *Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled the purpose of laws of the Torah and God's promise.*
 - *What's true of Jesus is true of us by his Spirit.*
 - *The good news is that Jesus fulfilled them for us and gave us the Spirit, [paraclete = helper], to help us live, not by the laws of the Torah, but by the Law of Christ.*
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Line by Line

- 5:25 “Live by the Spirit and keep in step with the spirit.”
 - *Everyday we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit like we are “walking in line behind the leader”.*
 - *Picture a military platoon marching in line or a marching band.*
 - 5:26 “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”
 - *A warning to “watch yourself” so we don’t become high & mighty, arrogant, self-righteous or devisive.*
 - 6:1 “...if someone is caught in sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”
 - *You who live by the Spirit = mature one’s, not the self-righteous “elite”*
 - *Restore = the same Greek word for “mending nets” or “repairing relationships”*
 - *GENTLELY!!!*
 - *Watch yourselves so that you aren’t tempted to sin OR to judge!*
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Line by Line

- 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - *To bear one another’s burdens is the supreme imitation of Jesus, who is the ultimate burden bearer. The one who took on the sin of all humankind and the punishment according to the laws of the Torah.*
 - *To fulfill the law of Christ seems to be a contradiction. If Jesus fulfilled the law, then how what law are we now beholden to?*
 - *In fulfilling the laws of Moses and their subsequent punishment, Paul is clear that Jesus, his life, his death, and his resurrection, made is so that the Galatians do not need to uphold the old ceremonial laws of the Israel to be faithful followers of the Way of Jesus.*
 - *HOWEVER,...this does not exempt us from all of God’s moral requirements. Jesus modeled for all of his disciples a new law that we are still required to abide by.*
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The Law of Christ

- The law of Moses began with the 10 Commandments, first given to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai for God's chosen people, Israel.
 - The laws expanded as the community was established and continued to grow in this new land.
 - *613 Laws in the Old Testament*
 - In fulfilling the laws of the Torah and the rest of Hebrew Bible, Jesus gave his disciples a higher & holier law to abide by.
 - The Law of Christ is the law of love that we are required to live out everyday through our acts of kindness.
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The Law of Christ

- We use lights to make other things clear. Christian should so shine in their lives that other people could not live near them for a week without knowing the gospel. Our way of life should make it obvious to those around us who we belong to and who we serve. The image of Jesus should be reflected in our daily actions. ...Christians ought to be comforters, with kind words on their lips and sympathy in their hearts. We should carry sunshine wherever we go and spread happiness all around us.”

~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The Law of Christ

- **Matthew 22:37-39** – "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
 - **Mark 12:29-31** – "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."
 - **Luke 10:27** – He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Both passages emphasize the two greatest commandments: to love God with everything we have and to love others as we love ourselves. These scriptures align with the message of love that Jesus taught throughout His ministry.
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The Law of Christ

- **Galatians 5:22** – "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."
 - **1 John 3:11** – "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."
 - **1 John 4:7-8** – "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."
 - **Colossians 3:12** – "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."
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Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How does walking by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25) influence the way we show kindness? Can you think of a time when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding you to respond with kindness in a difficult situation? How did it affect the outcome?
 2. In Galatians 6:1, Paul speaks about restoring someone who has fallen into sin "gently." What do you think it looks like to show kindness while holding someone accountable for their actions? How can we balance truth and grace in those moments?
 3. Galatians 6:7-8 speaks of sowing and reaping. How does showing kindness to others reflect what we are "sowing"? How can we be intentional about sowing seeds of kindness in situations that feel challenging?
 4. How do you interpret the command in Galatians 6:10 to "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"? In what ways can we prioritize kindness within our own community without neglecting others?
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