



THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS:
Embracing Freedom

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2021

Sermon-based Guide
Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Week of February 7
Galatians Chapter 6

Primary Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10 and 14-15, 18

Secondary Scripture: John 15:1-17

Sermon Summary: *Freed to Work for the Good of All*

Galatians 6:1-10 is a natural outflow from 5:22-26. Paul describes an example of how a Christian ethic can be based in the freedom of love—particularly when it comes to how Christians can treat one another when they discover “transgression” or wrong-doing.

Paired with the exhortation to restore our neighbor, is the warning that we must test our own work and remember our own standing before the Lord. Verses 7-10 remind us that God is the ultimate judge of our lives, and our reward will come from God; so in the meantime we “work for the good of all”. One commentator sums it up nicely: “it is in the paradox of bearing one another’s burdens and bearing one’s own load that church discipline and Christian service must operate.”

Just as Jesus puts his righteousness on us as a garment, we can somehow lend our righteousness/truth/mercy in gentleness to others as we seek to live out the gospel of Christ’s freeing love in our community.

Questions

Choose 1 or 2 of these questions for discussion:

1. Think of a time when you knew that a Christian friend was caught up in sin—whether by accident, through neglect, or intentional disobedience. Without giving away personal details, and without gossiping, describe how you responded (or didn’t respond) to them. Discuss with your group, whether you felt it was harder for you to speak the truth, or to speak in love (see Eph. 4:15).
2. Paul says, “all must test their own work” (v4). What practices of self-examination do you engage in? How can we build up our regular habits of honesty before God? How can we include accountability in our prayer lives?
3. Compare Paul’s proverb “you reap whatever you sow” (v7) to these other passages: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, Proverbs 22:8, James 3:16-18, Psalm 126:5. Discuss the similarities and differences among them.
4. Galatians 6:2 tells us to “Bear one another’s burdens.” How does, or could, your small group do this for one another?