

Title: Christian Attitude (5/9/18)

Text: Galatians 6

Paul set forth the principle of walking in the Spirit rather than fulfilling the lust of the flesh in ch 5.

Paul transitions to practical matters.

Paul had hinted at personal conflict among them, probably over the doctrinal controversy.

While noting typical works of the flesh, he had laid considerable emphasis upon the more generic sins of the spirit such as bitterness, arguing, anger, stubbornness, and hatred.

With those ugly thoughts just behind in Ch 5,

Paul admonishes the Galatian brethren in Ch 6 to Check their Attitude about several important things.

“The difference between an obstacle & an opportunity is our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, & every difficulty has an opportunity.”—J. Sidlow Baxter

Attitude is what we truly have control over.

If you don't like something, change it.

If you can't change it, change your attitude about it.

I tell my boys: *“Everything in life is 90% Attitude”*

The day we truly grow up is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes.

I. Our Attitude Toward Our Weak Brother: (Vs 1-5)

(Gal 6:1) ***Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault,***

Gk: Trespass, Sin, Offense

Peter was Overtaken in a Fault: (Jn 18:15-18)

The Sin of Judas Iscariot of Deliberate: (Matt 26:14)

But for the Grace of God, we all would be the weak brother:
(Phil 3:3) *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh.***

(1 Cor 15:10) *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

(Vs 1b) ye which are spiritual, (Gal 5:16) *walk in the Spirit. restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;*

It is Our Responsibility:

(Rom 15:1) *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

(Vs 1c) considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Paul warns lest the spiritual one fall into the same sin.

(Gal 6:2) ***Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.***

(Rom 12:15) *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

We can help our weak brother with his sorrows and trials.

Help in Love: (John 13:34-35)

Help with Patience: (1 Thes 5:14)

Help with Responding with Longsuffering:

(Gal 6:3) ***For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.***

Pride is Unbecoming to a Christian:

(John 15:5) w/o Christ *“Ye can do nothing”*

(Rom 12:16) *Be not wise in your own conceits.*

(Obadiah) *“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.”*

(Gal 6:4) ***But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.***

“Prove” - The jury is still out on our lives!

Our Work must stand the Test of time and divine approval:

(2 Cor 10:17-18) *But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 18 For **not** he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.*

(Gal 6:5) ***For every man shall bear his own burden.***

This statement does not contradict verse 2.

Rather, it complements & concludes the greater thought

We all will bear our own problems.

That is one of the axioms of life.

Paul seeks to establish the point he began in verse 2.

By Helping others with their burdens; We each carry our own.

We have some responsibilities which we must bear alone:

(Rom 14:11-12) We will give an account of our own journey not that of others.

“Burden” - Load - Responsibility Comp vs 2

Our Attitude Toward Our Weak Brother is to be Conviction with Compassion, not conviction with condemnation.

II. Our Attitude Toward the Preacher: (Vs 6)

(Gal 6:6) ***Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.***

The Word “Communicate” means to share with him.

(1 Cor 9:7-14) vs 14 *“Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel”*

Material Support:

(Matt 10:9-10) *for the workman is worthy of his meat.*
(1 Tim 5:17) *Let the elders that rule well be counted **worthy of double honour**, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

Paul clearly was not addressing this about himself.

Evidently was an attitude in Galatian churches of this regard.

“You keep his humble & we will keep him poor.”

God has ordained that those whom He has called to preach the gospel ought to be supported financially by the recipients of that blessing. \$750/wk = \$39K/yr.

3 Ways workers are Supported: Tithes, Offerings, Missions.

You don’t tithe to support me.

You tithe to worship God, & He supports me.

Our Attitude Toward the Preacher is to support financially.

III. Our Attitude Toward God: (Vs 7-9)

(Gal 6:7) ***Be not deceived; God is not mocked:***

Paul warns of self-delusion, if think we can get away with sin.

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

If we could get by with sin, it would make God a liar.

He is the Lord of the Harvest.

“Be not deceived” (Comp with vs 3) By self or others.

The Holy Spirit is given to teach us.

(Job 4:8) *Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.*

(Gal 6:8) ***For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

Universal Law: Lost or Saved!

Illus: This is why the Self-Help Industry has results.

We need to be careful of the kinds of seeds we sow:

There is a difference!

“Sow our wild oats and then pray for crop failure!”

(Hosea 8:7) *For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.*

Works for Sin/Flesh as well as the Spirit of Obedience.

(Gal 5:19-21) Flesh

(Gal 5:21-25) Spirit

(Gal 6:9) *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Requires Faith: (Heb 11:6) *“Please Him - rewarder”*

Patience is required before the harvest: (James 5:7-8)

“Due Season” = God’s Timing

Our Attitude Toward God is to be one of Obedience in Faith & Patience, Because Worship is something We DO, NOT something we Experience!

IV. Our Attitude Toward Others: (Vs 10)

(Gal 6:10) *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

A. We should be alert toward helping “All” who need help:

(1 Thes 5:15) *See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.*

B. We should have a special interest in God’s Children:

(Rom 12:10) *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another*

(Rom 12:13) *Distributing to the necessity of saints;*

“The household of faith” includes all of those living by faith:

(Love is a Choice we make not an emotion we feel)

Our attitude toward Others is to be of Hospitality, Because people may hear your words, but they will feel your attitude.

V. Our Attitude Toward The Apostle Paul: (Vs 11)

(Gal 6:11) *Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.*

This letter was written by Paul’s own hand.

He not only had apostolic authority, he had a real personal concern for the churches: *“Its Me! You know Me!”*

(2 Cor 11:28) *“The care of all the churches”*

Paul’s Attitude was to make the best of things, while he was receiving the worst of things.

Paul’s Attitude was the Thermostat for his followers, just like your’s is for those who follow you!

Their Attitude toward Paul was of reciprocal love, b/c he loved them dearly.

VI. Our Attitude Toward False Teachers: (Vs 12-13)

(Gal 6:12) *As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.*

They are seeking self glory and are not willing to suffer the persecution that goes with preaching the pure gospel of grace:

(Gal 4:10-12) They were worried w/ the “Brethren” thought.

(Acts 20:29-31) Paul warned them in advance of this.

(Gal 6:13) ***For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.***

They do not keep the whole law themselves:

They are seeking disciples for their own good:

(Matt 23:13-15; Phil 3:2; 2 Cor 11:13-15; 2 Pet 2:1-3)

Why? To look good in front of the brethren!

To be admired among their peers.

Don't fall into the trap of being someone else's justification.

Our Attitude toward false teachers is to be of biblical discernment.

VII. Our Attitude Toward Ourselves: (Vs 14-18)

(Gal 6:14) ***But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.***

We should not exalt ourselves: (Jer 9:23-24) *23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

Let us exalt Jesus Christ: (1 Cor 2:2) *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, & him crucified*

Let the world & its attraction not allure us: (1Jn2:15) *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

We are to be dead to the world: (Rom 6:1-4)

(Gal 6:15) ***For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.***

We must not depend on any ceremony:

We must not depend on Pedigree:

The indwelling Christ is our only hope: (2 Cor 5:17)

(Gal 6:16) ***And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.***

All who have their lives regulated by the NEW nature, may expect peace and mercy:

(Gal 6:17) ***From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.***

"I Know What I am talking about!"

Trials didn't make Paul the disciple he was, they reveal it!

Let us be willing to suffer for Christ, as Paul did: (Phil 1:28-29)

(Gal 6:18) ***Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.***

Our Attitude Toward ourselves should be one of humility.

We cannot choose how many years we will live, but we can choose how much life those years will have.

We cannot control the beauty of our face, but we can control the expression on it.

We cannot control life's difficult moments but we can choose to make life less difficult.

We cannot control the negative atmosphere of the world, but we can control the atmosphere of our minds.

Too often we try to choose and control things we cannot.

Too seldom we choose to control what we can ... our attitude.