Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – August 11, 2019

The Transforming

Power of the Cross

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

Free to Risk Loving Others

“Live as God’s family!”

Galatians 6:1-10

 Similarly, some in the Galatian churches wanted to live under the Law, but Paul explains that love fulfills the law. But how does that work? Pretend that the break between chapters five and six does not exist, and so our 6:1-10 is really a continuation on what it means to live by the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit, and bear the fruit of the Spirit. This passage shows us how to obey Galatians 5:26.

 Without the constraints of the Law, can’t we be hurt? Can’t people take advantage of us? Will we still have any boundaries to our emotional vulnerability? Paul assures us that God is watching, and will bring all people to account, and so it is safe for us to let our hearts go out to others, allowing Him to be the judge. Our job is to sow the good seeds of the Spirit, and leave the harvest to Him.

Last week we saw that. . . Freedom from the Law brings love, not lawlessness. . .

*Because God’s Spirit ALWAYS is bearing fruit.* vv. 22, 23

 As there is no law against doing good and having joy, there is no danger of loving or rejoicing to excess! Nor can the Spirit’s fruitfulness can be coopted for evil. He is the Holy Spirit.

*Because those who truly are Christ’s put sin to death.* vv. 24-26

 The Spirit’s work does not render us passive! It is through Him that we crucify the flesh and therefore live in harmony with one another. Following God’s Spirit creates humility and contentedness which, in turn, heads off destructive conflict.

These realities can free us from fear of missing out; we are secure in Christ. So. . .

Freedom from the Law means being able to “risk” loving others. . .

By restoring erring ones with humility when they stray. v. 1

By sharing the burdens of others rather then competing with or comparing ourselves to them. vv. 2-5

By supporting teachers who share and apply God’s Word. v. 6

By consciously choosing to cooperate with God’s Spirit and to reject the foolish and destructive tendencies of sin. vv. 7, 8

 Will: We choose what we sow.

 Discernment: We reap exactly what we sow.

 Patience: We reap long after we sow.

 Multiplication: We reap exponentially more than what we sow.

By doing good with abandon, trusting the results to God. vv. 9, 10

 We then can be consistent.

 We then can be persistent.

 We then can be patient.

 We act by faith based upon a can’t-fail principle.

 We act for others without preoccupation with self.

Freedom Principle #11: The Good News of Jesus Christ frees us by leading us to reject self-centered sin in favor of a joyful, humble, consistent self-giving on behalf of others.

***Applying the Principle:***

*1. The Spirit’s fruit includes “self-control,” which means that as believers, we can choose to do good to others from a pure heart. Matthew 5:1-16*

*2. The law of sowing and reaping highlights the reality that every thought and action has consequences. What will be your harvest? 2 Corinthians 5:10*

*3. If you are in Christ, then God intends for you to be an active presence for the good in the lives of others, especially believers. Romans 12:1-21*

*4. The first step in being helpful to others is paying attention to your own walk with Christ. Matthew 18:1-20*