

## Laws For Life – Gal 6:6-10

Gal 6:6-10; It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that our lives are governed by certain laws, certain principles

Like the Law of Gravity – that bodies of mass attract one another; What goes up comes down; Miss your step and you'll fall to the ground; It's a law

Or how about Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law of Motion? That for every action, there's an equal and opposite \_\_\_\_\_ (reaction); Hit your thumb with a hammer, and bad things happen

And the list goes on; From the Laws of Thermodynamics, to Gauss's Laws for electricity and magnetism; All *physical laws* that are universal and absolute

True for every single one of us, as they govern our lives, for our benefit

And the same is true of God's *spiritual* laws; Laws for life

Principles he has put in place that are *equally* universal, and *equally* absolute

4 of which are found right here in Gal 6; You follow along

[6] *Let the one who is taught the word [the truths of the Bible] share all good things with the one who teaches.* [7] *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* [8] *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.* [9] *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* [10] *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

The first principle, the first law for life we find here, is that . . .

### We're blessed to be a blessing (v6)

[6] *Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.*

Let the one who is *blessed* with biblical teaching, *be* a blessing

Referring to people in churches, who are taught by pastors; That's the context and audience to whom Paul was writing

Those who are *taught* God's Word, are to share *all good things* with their pastors

Which in my experience, is not only a great *blessing*, but *way* more than just money

In fact, let me give you 4 *kinds* of good things to share with our pastoral staff

### 1. Spiritual Insight

If the Lord has taught you something through the preaching and teaching of his word, share it with us

If there's an insight or application you've found particularly helpful, let us know; Send us an email, give us a call; I *love* hearing things like that

Like the call I received a few *weeks* ago, from a man in our church who had started *journaling* with his kids; He and his wife both

It's something Becky and I *commend* to young families from time to time, and he was so blessed, he just called to say thanks

I love that; So share your insights from time to time; It's part of the *all good things*

### 2. Encouragement

Another *good thing* you can share; And should; B/c pastors need it

And I'm thankful you give it; You're an encouraging church

When you appreciate a sermon, or a class, or a training you've received – many of you say so; And it goes a long way

I actually keep an "Encouraging Notes" *folder* on my email app; To save them; And a manila folder for *hand-written* ones; Have since I started

I've never gone back and *read* them, but just knowing that they're there is an encouragement in and of itself

### 3. Life Change

If you're going to share *all good things* with our pastors, be sure to tell us how God has changed your life; Or *is* changing your life

It might be a recent victory over sin, reconciliation in your marriage, or a newfound discipline in your walk; Maybe even the ultimate change of being *saved*

I *love* it when somebody tells me that in the lobby – "I just got saved"

Sometimes it's a student, sometimes an adult, sometimes a *couple*

Sometimes it happened *during* the week, sometimes in the service

Whatever the case, their life has changed, and it's a huge blessing to hear of it

And then 4<sup>th</sup>, share your . . .

### 4. Resources

God's *financial* blessing in your life; I'd be remiss if I left that out

B/c it's *definitely* a part of *all good things*; And certainly a way to bless us

But *not* by giving us money *directly*

The best way to share your financial resources, is to *tithe*; Just like we do; To give a tenth of your income to our church

B/c that not only provides for *our* well-being, but the church's; The ministry that's near and dear to our *heart*; The very thing to which we've given our *life* (**Summary**)

4 kinds of good things, to bless those who bless you; To live according to God's law for life; That's the first one we find here

The 2<sup>nd</sup>, is that . . .

### You reap what you sow (v7-8)

*Do not be deceived* [v7; as in don't be fooled; and don't *be* a fool]: *God is not mocked* [IOW you can't avoid this; it's as sure as gravity], *for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* If I heard my mom say this once, I heard it a hundred times

"You reap what you sow, mister; Mark my words, you reap what you sow"

And she was spot on; With my *own* situations to prove the point, and a whole host of *biblical* examples as well

Like Cain, who sowed jealousy and reaped loneliness (Gen 4:13-14)

Or Judah, in Gen 38, who sowed fornication and reaped shame

Or Pharaoh, who sowed oppression and reaped destruction (Ex 1:8-14)

Or Korah, in Nu 16, who sowed rebellion and reaped death

Reaping what you sow is a spiritual law that's as old and unavoidable as time

➤ And yet, we act like it's not; We *live* like it's not unavoidable

Drinking, carousing, smoking; Looking, lying, lusting; Gorging, indulging, consuming; Provoking, tempting, swearing; Rationalizing, justifying, deceiving . . . And then wondering why our lives aren't *going* the way we'd like; Or why they're such a mess; Or why *trouble* seems to follow us around every corner; Hello

- I'll never forget the funeral of my uncle; He wasn't much over 50, but it wasn't a shock He lived as a hermit, drank like a fish, and completely destroyed his liver IOW he lived miserably, and died prematurely

And at his funeral, I'll never forget standing next to the casket with my Dad, when someone walked up and said, "It sure is too bad that Ronnie *died*." And uncharacteristically quick, my Dad said, "He didn't take care of himself." IOW he reaped what he sowed, and it wasn't unexpected My Dad *grieved* his brother's death, for sure; But the handwriting was on the wall

B/c God will not be mocked; His law will not be broken without consequences [8] *For the one who sows to his own flesh* [v8; the one who feeds and fuels his *sin* nature] *will from the flesh* [from his sin nature] *reap corruption* [a.k.a. more sin; along with damage and destruction], *but the one who sows to the Spirit* [the Holy Spirit, and the regenerate *nature* he brings to our soul; the one who adds fuel to *that* fire] *will from the Spirit reap eternal life* [life to the full and life everlasting, starting right now].

The contrast couldn't be any clearer, and the outcome any plainer – actions have consequences; It's a law; Show me your conduct and I'll show you your future

And yet, we're often *flabbergasted* when it comes; Even offended; "How could you let this happen, God? How could you?" To which he's probably thinking, "I *told* you it would happen. *For whatever one sows, that will he also reap*. How could you let this happen?" (7)

- On the other hand, if we sow to the Spirit, if we do what *he* wants – we reap a blessing Like Abraham; Who sowed faith and reaped a promise (Gen 12-22) Or Moses, who sowed humility and reaped deliverance Or Joshua, who sowed courage and reaped success Or Ruth, who sowed loyalty and reaped a lineage It wasn't immediate, but it happened; And when it did, it was unmistakable B/c you reap what you sow; It's a law

3<sup>rd</sup>, is that . . .

**Perseverance pays (v9)**

That's the 3<sup>rd</sup> law for life; V9

*Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

It doesn't say, "don't get tired;" That would be *impossible* this side of heaven It says, don't get tired of doing what's *right*; What's *good*

And don't *give up* on the results; *For in due season we will reap*; A harvest *will* come It may take a while; And it may show up in a form or forms you didn't expect But *in due season*, when the time is right in God's eyes, it will happen Perseverance pays; It's a promise of God and a law for life

- One of the best examples of which, is **William Wilberforce**

Born in 1759, Wilberforce had everything going for him; He was healthy, wealthy, educated, and capable; He even won election to the British Parliament, at age 21

But it wasn't until Easter of 1786, 5 years later, that God opened his heart, saved his soul, and awakened him to the wickedness of slavery

Which *up* to that pt was no big deal; But when he came to Christ, he couldn't ignore it 30-50k slaves a year were being kidnapped from Africa by British merchants in those days, and sold throughout the British Empire at great profit (**quote**)

And it so grieved him, he later wrote, "Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that I would *never rest* until I had effected its abolition."

- So in Parliament, he and Thomas Clarkson, another abolitionist, introduced no less than 12 different resolutions against the slave trade, starting in 1789 And over the course of 2 years, every single one was rejected Opposed at every turn by legal maneuverings, business interests, filibusters, bigotry, international politics, and even personal sickness (**Photo**)

Not to be deterred, he introduced more bills in 1791; And then again in 1792; And again in 93, 97, 98, 99, 1804, and 1805; All rejected as well

For 16 years he labored to end slavery, with *nothing* to show for it; Except opposition on every side; Pro-slavery forces targeted him so fiercely with verbal assaults/threats . . . That one friend feared he would be "[broiled] by Indian planters, barbecued by African merchants, and eaten by Guinea captains" He was even challenged to a duel by one such captain

And then there was his ill-health; Which so plagued him, that he was often bed-ridden in pain for weeks at a time; Unable to *see* sometimes, let alone read and write All of which he *survived* with the help of a new drug at the time – opium; The effects of which were still unknown; But as you might imagine, it quickly led to an addiction . . With all the hallucinations and depression that went with it

- And yet, he persevered; Drawing strength from a **letter** written to him by John Wesley years before; That great preacher and stalwart faith "Unless God has raised you up for this very thing [he wrote], you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God? O be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it."

That was 1791; And he kept that letter in his Bible for years, tattered and torn And later wrote himself, that "a man who fears God is not at *liberty*" to give up Why? B/c he trusted that *in due season* he would reap (**Photo**)

- But it wasn't until 1807, 18 years after he started, that he did; That his efforts began to bear fruit; When a bill was finally passed that outlawed slavery in *Britain* Unfortunately, it continued throughout the *rest* of the British Empire, and therefore his fight did as well

Until finally, in 1833, 26 years *after* that, he was told on his deathbed, that the Slavery Abolition Act would pass, banning it across the entire British Empire; And it did 44 years after he began, and just 3 days before he died, his perseverance paid

- I know of few other people whose lives illustrate this principle better (**Outline**)  
So whatever you're battling, and I hope you're battling something – don't grow weary of doing good, and don't give up; Find a groove, and keep on  
Whether it's the fight against abortion, gay marriage, racism, the restriction of religious freedom, assisted suicide, personal disease, sinful addiction, or just plain apathy  
Whatever it is, persevere; B/c a harvest *will* come; You *will* reap  
It may not be in your *time*, or your *way*, but you *will* reap; B/c perseverance pays

And then last, is . . .

### **Family first (v10)**

That's the *last* law for life

And I'm *not* talking about your *personal* family; Your immediate family  
I'm talking about the family of *God*; Your *spiritual* family; Our *church* family

Not that your immediate family is *unimportant*, or persona non grata

But that when it comes to blessing those inside the church vs. outside the church, inside takes precedence

B/c Paul says in v10 – *So then, as we have opportunity* [as in time; while the season lasts; while the Lord tarries], *let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith* [the church, the community of believers].

When it comes to helping people *outside* the church versus *inside* the church, inside takes priority; Our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, come first

Not that the two are mutually *exclusive*; It's not either/or; It's both/and

We are to do good to everyone *and* do good to the family of God  
But concern for our family, our church, should come first  
Should be first and *foremost* in our mind and heart

- This became real for Becky and I when we were first married, living in the Chicagoland area; Far from either of our *immediate* families, our *church* became family  
Not only b/c they were the people we knew, but b/c we were intentional about getting together with them; Every weekend in worship, and every *week* in Small Group  
We just didn't miss; B/c we needed it; And needed them

But the biggest reason they became family, was their love and *care* for us; The *good* they did to us

Like throwing a baby shower and making a quilt for the birth of our first daughter  
That's a lot of work; And a really kind gesture in addition to all the meals, gifts, help, and celebration

Would they have done that for someone *outside* the church? Absolutely; And they did  
But their *primary* concern was for those *inside* the church; Those with whom they were connected

And that doesn't even touch the good they did for us in the area of *discipleship*

Like the 65 year-old retired missionary couple who led our Small Group, and imparted everything they could about life and godliness

Or the faithful friends later on, who helped us work through marriage difficulties when we butted heads

It was *good* all around; To those inside *and* outside the church

But we came first; And praise God for it; B/c we are reaping, what they sowed

- How about you? Do you put family first? Your immediate family *and* your church family?

Is doing good to your brothers and sisters in Christ first and foremost in *your* mind and heart? Caring for them, ministering to them, and blessing them?

Or is it easy come, easy go for you? Out of sight out of mind?

I hope not; I hope it's family first; And that *your* priorities match God's (**Summary**)

B/c at the end of the day, his laws hold sway

Every action has an equal and opposite \_\_\_\_\_ (reaction)

And you reap what you \_\_\_\_\_ (sow)

Pray – Lord, thank you for loving us so much, that you not only died so we could live, but gave us both physical and spiritual *laws*, to live well; Find us faithful in that  
And receive our tithes now – to sow the seeds of ministry, and reap a harvest of righteousness