

## **"The Ripple Effect of Our Decisions!"**

*Galatians 6:7 (NIV) - "Do not be deceived: God can not be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."*

*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 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.*

*Galatians 6:7-8 ESV*

### **I. Indeed, our decisions can have far-reaching consequences, both positive and negative,**

In various aspects of our lives. It's important to consider the potential **outcomes before making choices.**

In life, we often find ourselves at crossroads, faced with choices big and small. It's easy to underestimate the impact of these decisions, but today, let's reflect on the profound truth that our **decisions have consequences.**

*Galatians 6:7 reminds us that we reap what we sow.*

*But we often reap more than we sow. Just like a stone creates ripples when tossed into a pond, our choices send waves through our lives and the lives of others.*

Consider a seed planted in fertile soil. With care and nurturing, it can grow into a **beautiful, fruitful tree.**

If we sow seeds of **negativity, selfishness, or dishonesty**, we can not expect a bountiful harvest of joy and peace.

Instead, we may face the **consequences of our actions**, sometimes in unexpected ways.

So please today, let's be mindful of the choices we make.

Let's strive to sow seeds of **love, kindness, and forgiveness** in our interactions with others. In doing so, we not only honor **God's wisdom** but also contribute to a world that reflects His grace.

Today, we delve into a crucial aspect of our lives—how our **decisions have consequences**. Every choice we make, whether big or small, shapes our journey and **leaves a lasting impact.**

Let us reflect on the **wisdom found in Scripture** regarding the consequences of our decisions.

### **The Principle of Sowing and Reaping**

*A. Scriptural Foundation (Galatians 6:7-8) - "Do not be deceived: God can not be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." -*

*B. Understanding the Principle - Just as a farmer sows seeds expecting a harvest, our decisions yield results.*

## II. Short-Term Gratification vs. Long-Term Consequences

A. The Temptation of Immediate Gratification - Often, we choose what feels good in the moment. - Yet, short-term gains can lead to long-term pain.  
Gary losing his temper cost him his position of honor.

B. Joseph's Story - Joseph's decision to resist Potiphar's wife led to his eventual exaltation (Genesis 39-41). - Resisting temptation brought long-term blessings.

## III. The Ripple Effect on Others

A. Influence on Our Loved Ones - Our choices affect not only us but also our families, friends, and communities. -

Consider David's actions and their impact on his family (2 Samuel 12).

*Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.  
2 Samuel 12:7-9 ESV*

David was pronounced guilty by the mouth of the prophet Nathan.

Once again proving that you reap what you sow!

**B. Community and Society - Collectively, our choices shape the culture and values of our society.**

We are called to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16).

## IV. Choosing Wisely

A. Seeking God's Guidance - Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. God's wisdom surpasses our understanding.

B. Repentance and Redemption - Even when we make poor choices, God offers forgiveness and a chance for redemption. The story of the prodigal son exemplifies God's grace (Luke 15:11-32).

Conclusion:

Let us strive for wisdom and discernment in our choices, seeking God's guidance in all aspects of our lives. Remember that even when we stumble, God's grace and mercy are available for our redemption.

May we be a church that values the impact of our choices, both for our own lives and for the world around us.