



Driven Apart

Galatians 6:6-10

Week of January 3, 2020

Before Connect Group

- Read Galatians 6:6-10
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. 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. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:6-10, ESV

Sermon Notes

We are better together, but the desires of our flesh will absolutely drive us apart unless we actively and intently stop feeding the flesh and begin to sow into the Spirit.

Last week, Joseph gave an amazing sermon series on keeping in Step with the Spirit and how, if 2020 taught us anything, its that we are better off together. That we cannot pursue the Spirit in Presence, Power, and Perseverance on our own but desparately need to link arms with one another as we pursue the Spirit of God in our church, in our community, and in our culture. While the mission and vision of the church does not change, the context does and we find ourselves not in an area that God does not know but an area prime to express live according to the Spirit of God.

The New Year tends to be a time when people make goals about who they want to become and these goals are usually not bad goals. This time is a phenomenal time to reset as well. Everything feels fresh and new like we can change and better ourselves. The most common new years goal "Get in shape." Which is a great goal. But with this goal comes the needed discipline of cutting out the

We are better together, but the desires of our flesh will absolutely drive us apart unless we actively and intently stop feeding the flesh and begin to sow into the Spirit.

Walking according to the Spirit of God involves a complete and total reorienting of our lives to proclaim and live in the glory, grace, and love of God. It means we cease to live as children of the flesh and start living as children of the faith. Everyone has a choice what they will feed and ultimately, whatever we feed will grow. No one can reasonable expect to take their next steps in faith or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ without first sowing to the Spirit.

Sowing According to the Flesh

- *Galatians 6:8 "the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption"*
- Let's talk honestly about sin for a moment.
- The problem of sin is that it is unbelievable fun. There is a rush of naughtiness that tingles our senses. It promises things that speak to our ego with promises of more, wealth, power, and glory for ourselves.
 - We all know that eating cake for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is crazy unhealthy for you. Yet we have to convince children to eat vegetables.
 - We invent phrases to justify what we are doing as well. "Guilty pleasure." Ever thought about that one? It literally means we know what we are doing is wrong and yet have decided to continue in it anyway because it brings us pleasure.
 - If sin were not fun and didn't speak to that part of our flesh that craves personal graitification no matter the cost, then we would not indulge in it.
- For as much as we enjoy indulging in the ways of the flesh, in the sin, no matter what we do to try and mitigate the outcome, or whatever rationale we use to justify our decisions, sin will always, always, always, lead to our decay, corruption, and without divine intervention, eternal death.
 - Sin corrupts every single time.
 - Mankind had been created to enjoy the presence of God and glorify Him forever by

joining in the divine love of the fullness of God.

- Sowing according to the flesh will always be related to the personal growth at the expense of others, and against the intended order and commands of God. The relationship will be one sided as we strive to excel in selfishness and take what we think we deserve.
 - The more that was promised will never be enough because this world will never be able to satisfy the divine gap in our lives.
 - The wealth will end up meaningless and we will one day die no longer ready to enjoy anything we have amassed for ourselves.
 - The power will be overthrown and there will always be something more powerful than you or I no matter what position we ascend to.
 - The glory that was promised will ring cheap and hollow and it clangs like a nosy gong without meaning or authenticity.
- When the flesh ceases to provide everything it promised, and it absolutely will not be able to provide, we will cry like infant children who have had their favorite ball take from them until our soul is left tattered and dead.
- Ways We Sow Into the Flesh - the patterns we engage in destructive to our faith. When we engage in the things of the world, we pursue basically three things that John mentions in 1 John 2:15-17
 - *1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life —is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*
 - Desires of the Flesh
 - Most of us hear this and have at least somewhat of an idea of this. This is the lust of pursuing the carnal desires. But its more than simply just sexual desires, gluttony would fall in this category as well.
 - There is a carnal obsession, a beast that we feel must be fed. And this beast will never, ever be satisfied. Flesh always wants one more. It takes beyond what it needs and over indulges until a person is so out of control that the way back seems dim.
 - This kind must be starved until it has nothing to feed on and its shriveled body has atrophied to a fraction of its former self.
 - Desires of the Mind
 - We spend all of our waking energy and effort thinking about the distracts from the things of God. Dulling our mind by continually jumping to Youtube, Netflix, and any of the other streaming services while failing to prioritize our spiritual walk. I'm as upset about The Office leaving Netflix as the next nerd but if I compared the amount of time I spent on vain pursuits of the mind to the amount of time I spent pursuing my relationship with Jesus Christ, the comparison would quickly become sobering.
 - This kind must be ignored. It seeks attention and without it, the power it holds over us remains completely inconsequential.
 - Pride of Life
 - Our identity cannot be placed in our possessions or our status. We cannot shape an identity based on how rich we are, how much we have stored away or our right standing.
 - This kind must be crucified, daily coming head to head with our heavenly Father whose riches knows no end and whose reign is never ending.

Sowing according to the flesh is nothing short of idolatry and idolatry is nothing short of misplaced worship. Wherever we sow into the flesh, we elevate something to the level of God in our lives. It dominates our lives and acts out of selfish conceit and ambition. God, who is sovereign and rules over all creation whether we like it or not, will not be dethroned by anything especially a mere idol. For us to fully sow according to the Spirit, idols must be smashed. "Do not be deceived God will not be mocked." The idols will fall no matter what. It is best that we be standing alongside the God who smashes the idols and sends the Spirit to dwell within us.

Sowing According to the Spirit

- *Galatians 6:8* "...the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."
- Sowing according to the Spirit is not about striving to live by the law. The goal of Christianity is not a moral adherence to a set of structures and rules that we can follow in order that God will be pleased with us.
- *Romans 8:1-4, ESV* "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."
- Sowing according to the Spirit is putting death to the flesh and reorienting our lives to grow deeper in love with the God who sent Jesus Christ to pay our sin debt and credit His righteousness to us. It worships the one true God as King and Lord over all things and puts to death the flesh.
 - We tend to over complicate the process of sowing according to the flesh.
- It may be difficult to achieve but it is beautifully simple. We hope that one grand gesture will set us apart from the world and everything will be smooth sailing in our spiritual walk.
- This is the same thing as having a beautiful wedding ceremony and then refusing to talk to your way every day.
- Keeping in step with the Spirit, sowing according to the Spirit is not a matter of one grand gesture but the daily tending to and discipline of pursuing the Spirit.
- The fundamental mission and vision for the church has not changed. We pursue the Lord our God and walk according to the Spirit with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
 - *Colossians 3:1-2* *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
 - Be in places the Spirit of God is celebrated and thrives.
 - Prioritize your time with and relationship with God. Often times, we give God the leftovers. We will have our quiet time if there is any time at the end of the day.
 - Grow in community and education. Our connect groups are a wonderful place to grow in community and discuss the sermons with one another. If we don't have a group that meets on the night you are available, then we will just consider this a sign that you need to start a connect group. We will provide the training and resources, you simply need to agree to host for a period of time and lead the conversations together. This is a time to go deeper or work in community to grow in relationship with God and with one another because we are better off together.
 - Then, one thing we will be rolling out this year is classes. The deeper our understanding of the truth of scripture and the story that God is weaving throughout all history and time, our passion will grow to know Him more. As we delve deeper into understanding the person of God He invites us deeper into relationship with Him. He is a God who

wants us to explore the depths of His unending knowledge and sit at His feet as our teacher. We study, we grow in education, not just to increase our pool of knowledge but out of the deep love we have for a God who loved us first.

Make no mistake though, the flesh and the spirit stand in stark contrast to one another. The flesh treats the Spirit as an allergy that works against it. The flesh views the Spirit as a threat. And this is absolutely correct.

All Glory Belongs To The Lord

- *Galatians 6:6* "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches."
- At the beginning of needing to decide whether you want to sow into the flesh or sow into the Spirit is the question of whether you think it is your own ability and merit that got you here to begin with. The one who is taught is to share with the glory of the one who teaches, not because the teacher needs the glory, but because the student is nothing without the teacher.
- All the glory belongs to the Lord and everything stems from Him and Him alone. We cannot be arrogant enough to think that our own good works got us here. They didn't. Our works necessitated that Christ intervene on our behalf.
- When we know that our standing is an act of grace and nothing to do with ourselves, we can, in humility work for the good of others. This is precisely why the passage in Galatians finishes the way it does
- *Galatians 6:10* "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
- There is an abundance and overflow that comes from understanding that everything we have is a gift from God. Every breath, every penny, every moment. Life comes from the grace of God that the Father would send the Son to die on the cross as an atonement for our sins. And just as our sins are placed on Him, He places his righteousness on us. His works are credited to us as righteousness so that we will one day stand before the Father, one with the Son, and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Where the flesh sought to drive us apart from one another by self-centered focus, a life renewed and walking in step with the Spirit. The things of the flesh will begin to lose their taste.
- Do not go alone. The fullness of the Trinity shows us that the full expression of God is unity in relationship. Grab a friend, your family, co-workers, whoever God has placed in your path and pursue the Lord together.

We are better off together despite the fact that our flesh will strive to drive us apart with every ounce of its being. The enemy knows that those who wander alone can be picked off the easiest. We know that walking in the Spirit means walking with the fullness of the body of Christ together. So for some of us our next step will be to come be a part of a discipleship relationship where you actively battle sin together and we will have a workshop coming up the 23rd at 1pm to talk specifics about how to do that. For others, its going to be to come take a class or sign up for a connect group to grow in community . For others, this next step will be the scariest and best decision you ever make. During this next song to talk to the person who brought you here, or if you came alone, to just come on up and talk to an elder or staff member that you are ready to submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, that you believe that Jesus died for your sins and that by His grace, in faith, you know that your sins are paid for and Christ's righteousness is imputed to you.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- Describe the difference between a life that is sowing into the flesh and a life that is sowing into the Spirit?
- What types of things does sin and living a life of the flesh promise? What types of things does it deliver?
- The source of the life comes from the Spirit. Yet, walking in the Spirit can be a difficult task. Why do we resist walking in the Spirit?
- Why should God get the glory from the testimony of our lives? How has God continually blessed your lives?
- What is the difference between a life that gives the glory to God and one that seeks to keep it for itself?
- How can we talk together to put to death the flesh and walk according to the Spirit of God this year?

Challenge For The Week

We are better together but our flesh will strive to drive us apart if we are not careful. Walking with one another can help us to pursue the Spirit of God.

- Spend some time this week and consider what are the areas that you need to cease to feed the flesh and what areas where you need to begin to sow into the Spirit.
- When our lives give God the glory, everything we do becomes an expression of the Gospel. For the next few weeks, focus on one person you can pray for and share the Gospel with.

