



“Climate Change”
Galatians 6
— Small Group Plan —

I read of a Christian nurse who had traveled with a mission group to a developing country to conduct a two-week medical clinic for the poor. Every day she freely gave of her time and training to the people who lined up for medical help. The lines formed early each morning and at the end of each day there were still lines of people waiting to be helped.

At the end of the two weeks the team of nurses and doctors were exhausted. Their travel visas were up, it was time to go home, and so they packed up their belongings and made the long trip back to their homes. This nurse shared with friends how difficult it was for her to apply Paul’s words, *“Let us not become weary in doing good.”* She explained that there was no end to the line of people who needed help and that when she focused on the mass of humanity, she did grow weary very quickly.

She finally learned to overcome the feeling of weariness by adopting a different viewpoint. Instead of focusing on the mass of people, she said, *“I focused on the person standing in front of me. I gave them my smile, my time and my service. And I knew when they left that I had helped them.”*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How willingly do you share your time and talent with others?
- Have you ever found yourself thinking, *“That’s the last time I’ll offer my help”* when you weren’t thanked? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THE CHURCH – A PLACE OF RESTORATION —
Galatians 6:1

¹ *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

- How would you describe the character of the people Paul identifies as *“you who are spiritual”*?
- How does restoration happen? What’s involved in *“gently”* restoring someone?
- How are we tempted when we see another Christian sin?

— THE CHURCH – A PLACE OF SUPPORT —

Galatians 6:2-3

² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

³ If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- Read John 13:34 and John 15:12. To what is Paul referring when he writes about “the law of Christ”?
- How will helping someone to carry their burden “fulfill the law of Christ”?
- Why is it difficult for some people to ask for help when their burden is weighing them down?
- What does Paul mean when he says a Christian is “nothing” (v. 3)?

— THE CHURCH – A PLACE OF RESPONSIBILITY —

Galatians 6:4-5

⁴ Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵ for each one should carry his own load.

- As I offer help to someone, why should I “test” or question my own motives?
- What practical steps can I take to “test” myself?
- Why is it dangerous to compare ourselves to others?
- Since pride is usually considered a negative quality, what kind of “pride” is Paul describing in verse 4?

— THE CHURCH – A PLACE OF GENEROSITY —

Galatians 6:6-10

⁶ Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- In what circumstances have Christians become “weary in doing good” (v.9)?
- How would you describe the kind of seed that brings “destruction” (v. 8)?
- How do Christians sow seed from “the Spirit” (v. 8)?
- Why should “the family of believers” receive special attention?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How have fellow believers helped you to carry a burden?
- With which burden of life do Christians most often need help?
- Do you think that Christians are more likely to overlook sin, allowing it to continue? Explain.
- Think through the Fruit of the Spirit again (5:22-23). Which fruit do you think Paul is asking the Galatians to utilize here (6:8-10)? Explain.
- What opportunities do you have right now to “do good to all people” (v. 10)?
- Close in prayer, asking God to give you both a serious and a sensitive viewpoint regarding failures of others. Give up any suspicious and competitive thoughts and instead present to God a supportive and generous spirit.