



## **Central**

### **Week 6**

Welcome, everyone. Well, here we are one last time in the book of Galatians, as we're wrapping up our series called *Central*. I hope and pray that you've learned a lot over the past six weeks, and that you are taking the time to read the book of Galatians during the week.

Who's able to give me a quick review or point that we learned last week during our study of Galatians 5?

Let me ask you a question. When someone responds to the gospel message and becomes a Christian, do they automatically go on to live a perfect life?

[Students should say "no."]

So, that means that I'm allowed to be a Christian and mess up? Is it OK for someone to be a Christian and sin?

[Students should say "no" again.]

Here's a scenario. I'm your youth pastor, and you know that I've responded to the gospel. I identify as a Christian and have shown my faith in Jesus. You hear a story about how I messed up and I sinned, but I felt alright about it. Is that OK?

Well, to give you the right answer, it's not "OK" for a Christian to sin, but it's bound to happen depending on what the sin is.

Let's give you another scenario. There's someone who goes to your church. They are a member of your youth group, and they screw up pretty bad. Let's just say that they broke about three or four of the 10 commandments. What does the church usually do to that one person who's messed up?

[Author Note: You might get a few different answers. Students may answer by saying, "They are judged based on their actions," or, "The church makes them feel guilty," or, "The church treats them differently because of their sin."]

One more scenario. How many of you have played paintball before? Let's say we are all on the same team, and we are playing against another youth group. There's lots of shooting going on, and as we begin the game, one of us gets shot in the leg. And because of that, now our team is short a player. Would you turn to the one who got shot and shout, "What the heck is wrong with you, Man? How can you be so careless and expose yourself and get shot just like that?! Don't you know how to play paintball? Now all because of you, we are short a player and we might lose. You're so stupid!"

Now that sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Of course, they weren't intending to get shot, but they did, and yelling at them doesn't help the situation.

As we get into the last chapter of Galatians, Paul begins to talk about people who are part of the church but they mess up.

Open with me to the last chapter of Galatians, chapter 6, and let's read the last part of the letter that Paul is writing to the church.

### **Galatians 6:1-3**

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of*

*Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

Paul basically says that gospel-centered believers can and will mess up, but if someone is caught in a transgression (or someone has fallen into temptation and committed sin), they are to be restored by someone who is spiritually mature.

It is the responsibility of those who are spiritually mature to help restore a believer who has fallen. Not only are they to restore the person, but also Paul describes how they should restore them. They restore them with ... Gentleness.

Can I ask you a hard question? Do you believe that we, as gospel-centered believers, restore others with gentleness when they mess up? When someone messes up, do you treat them differently and make them feel judged, or do you love and care for them and support them in their restoration process?

Paul says that the spiritually mature ones are those who restore in a spirit of gentleness. I personally think that this is a good indication of a spiritually mature believer: someone who not only knows the gospel but also is willing to take the time to care for someone who is in need.

To take us back to our paintball illustration, if someone is shot and on the ground, a loving caring friend would be the one to take the time to run to his or her aid and help him or her off the field in their time of need.

Has anyone been in that situation? You've kinda messed up and you feel bad, you feel terrible about what you've done, you want to get better, and then here comes Super Spiritual Sally, and she's got her finger in your face and is telling you how bad you are and how wrong you are and pointing out your sin over and over and over. Does that help the situation? No, it doesn't. It actually kind of makes things worse.

A true gospel-centered Christian knows how to bear another's burdens.

A burden is something heavy, like a backpack with lots of heavy books in it. There are some believers walking around life with heavy burdens. Some are in your family, some are in your school, some are in your neighborhood—and there may be some of you in here walking around with heavy burdens. Mature believers are those who help those who carry heavy burdens.

As we continue on in Galatians 6, in verse 4 we read. ..

### **Galatians 6:4-6**

*But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.*

When Paul says that each will have to bear his own load, he's really letting us know that we are responsible for carrying our own burdens if we mess up. It's never OK for a Christian to mess up and sin and just walk away like it didn't happen. You best be sure that he will have to bear the responsibilities of his own actions.

If a teenage boy sins and breaks the law and gets arrested, he doesn't just get to say, "Oops, I'm sorry. I'm human, nobody is perfect," and walk away free. He may have to be charged, fined and put in jail and carry a burden for a while.

As a mature believer, I can't take away your burdens and I can't right your wrongs for you, but I'm supposed to restore you with a spirit of gentleness.

### **Galatians 6:7-8**

*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.*

Have you ever heard the saying, "Whatever you sow, you will reap"?

Well, it's true. Some people sow in the flesh and some people sow in the Spirit. Paul's listeners would have totally understood that metaphor because many of them were farmers. When you sow corn, you reap corn. When you sow figs, you reap a fig tree. You reap what you sow.

If you sow the flesh, you reap corruption. If you sow the Spirit, you reap eternal life.

One of our points today is simply this:

### **1. Gospel-centered Christians sow spiritual seeds.**

Here's a challenging question I want to ask you: what kind of seeds have you been sowing this week? Have you been sowing in the flesh, or are you sowing in the Spirit?

The sad thing is, I find that many people spend their days sowing in the flesh and complaining that they are not growing spiritually. They can tell me every episode of their favorite Netflix show, but they don't know where their Bible is in their room. I'm sorry, but if you keep sowing seeds of the flesh, don't be surprised when you reap corruption. If you want to grow in spiritual things, you must sow spiritual seeds.

#### **Galatians 6:9**

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

Weariness is a terrible state to be in. You know that exhausting, tired, I-wish-life-was-over type of feeling? When you feel weary, all you want to do is give up. As a believer you will face this. You may have already faced this. It's when you question whether doing all this is actually worth it. Being a gospel-centered Christian isn't necessarily a walk in the park; you will have to tough it out sometimes. Paul encourages us to keep doing good and be patient for spiritual fruit.

#### **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.*

Gospel-centered believers take the opportunity to do good. They take the opportunity to sow spiritual seeds. And they especially do good to other believers. When someone is changed by the gospel, they are new creatures, they are blessed by God, and they are transformed. The least they could do is do good to other believers and return the favor of God's blessing.

## **2. Gospel-centered Christians do good, especially to other gospel-centered Christians.**

There are so many themes and lessons we can learn from Paul in these letters. The gospel is powerful. The gospel is all about having a new life; it's all about being transformed. The question we must ask after reading through, studying, and going through this series is: Have I literally responded to this gospel?

Today, we must end this series and respond to this gospel—the good news that Jesus came and died and resurrected for us. I pray that this youth group will become a community of gospel-centered people who will strive to live the gospel in everything that they do.

Lets close in prayer and ask God to reveal his truth in our hearts regarding the gospel message and ask him for help to live gospel centred lives. Then we will break into small groups to have a time of further discussion.