



GOD OF FREEDOM

THE GOD OF GALATIANS

5



YES, NO & MAYBE

1. If we were counting to see who had the most sins in this room, someone sitting near me would be the winner!
2. I'm more observant to the needs of others than most people.
3. It is our responsibility to correct the sinful behavior of those in church.
4. If you strongly adhere to God's Law, you are a legalist.
5. If we were doing God's will, we would be looking at other people, and trying to determine what their problems are.

DIG DEEPER

- What is one of the most selfless things that someone has ever done for you?

➤ READ Galatians 6:1-10 (NLT)

1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. 5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

6 Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

» **1 Overcome** - *prolambanō* (προλαμβάνω) It has the following meanings: “to anticipate, to forecast, to overtake, to come upon, to take unawares.” Possibly the act of a Christian detecting a fellow-Christian in the commission of a sin, thus catching him unawares in it, and establishing by that means the fact of the sin. Or, perhaps, it refers to the Christian himself being overtaken by the sin before he is aware that he has done wrong.

- « How does this word identify what God wants us to do in verse 2? Is that something that is comfortable for you to do?

» **2 Burdens** - We typically think of “correcting” other believers as showing them what they are doing wrong. But here, Paul is very specific about what to correct in church. The context indicates the specific meaning. The burdens in this context refer to the responsibility each saint should feel for the spiritual welfare of his fellow-saints, especially when they have sinned. In this particular instance, the Spirit-dominated saints should feel the responsibility of rescuing their brethren who have put themselves under legalism, from an abject slavery to law, and of transferring their dependence again upon the Spirit; and in the case of the sin which has taken him by surprise, of helping the sinning brother to go to the Lord Jesus with a confession of that sin.

« How can a focus on the letter of the law interfere with living out the “Law of Christ”? Has my legalism ever gotten in the way of helping someone else?

« What do you think church would look like if the “correction” prescribed by the most staunch church members was a firm call away from legalism? What solutions and problems might arise from this approach?

» **10 Opportunity** - kairos (καιρος), this exhortation is not merely to do good to others when the opportunity presents itself, but to look for opportunities to do good to others.

« In what ways does our “helping” flow out of self-interest? Out of “disinterested” (spirit-filled) love?

« This whole section of Scripture seems to be calling us to look away from self and to focus on others. Why do you think this is so difficult, and what typically happens when we look at others?

« What is the difference between a family and a church? How can a church become more like a healthy family?

« What does it tell you about God that you hadn’t thought of before?



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MY PRAYER...

1. How can I shift my focus to be more helpful to others?
2. In what ways do I act like I’m too good to help other people?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?