

Chapter 6 – Further Application of Justification By Faith Alone

After explaining what life in the Spirit looks like for believers, Paul then answers a logical follow-up question: what about when believers give in to the flesh (fall into sin)? To answer that, Paul describes spiritual accountability in the body of Christ. If Matthew 18:15-20 could be thought of as the *method* of church discipline, Galatians 6:1-5 could be thought of as the *manner* of church discipline. Put each of the following characteristics of biblical accountability next to the passage and text that it represents:

Humble: believers should recognize that they, too, are not immune to the temptations of the flesh.

Sober-minded: believers should recognize that one day they will give an account directly to God.

Compassionate: believers should seek to restore fallen brothers in kindness, rather than harshness.

Cautious: believers should make sure that they are not ensnared in the same sin as the fallen brother.

Ongoing: believers should continue to help the fallen brother fight against his besetting sin.

Intentional: believers should not ignore the sins of fallen brothers, but actively participate in helping them.

Non-hypocritical: believers should first consider their own lives for any unaddressed sin.

<u>Passage</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>
Gal. 6:1a	“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one...”	_____
Gal. 6:1b	“...in a spirit of gentleness...”	_____
Gal. 6:1c	“...each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”	_____
Gal. 6:2	“Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”	_____
Gal. 6:3	“For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”	_____
Gal. 6:4	“But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.”	_____
Gal. 6:5	“For each one will bear his own load.”	_____

Many interpreters understand Galatians 6:6 as referring to compensation due to a pastor. But in context, Paul is still speaking of the restoration of a fallen brother (one who has given in to the flesh rather than living by the Spirit). Even though pastors do deserve payment for their hard work at preaching (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17), this passage has nothing at all to do with paying a pastor. Instead, after explaining how to restore a fallen brother, Paul goes on to describe how a fallen brother should respond to biblical accountability. According to Galatians 6:6, how should a restored brother react after being confronted in his sin and assisted in overcoming it?

Chapter 6 – Further Application of Justification By Faith Alone (continued)

Once he's described how a fallen brother *should* respond to biblical accountability, Paul goes on in Galatians 6:7-8 to describe how a fallen brother *should not* respond to accountability. What is Paul's warning to the professing believer who rejects accountability and thinks it's acceptable for to continue living in the flesh?

Paul finishes his teaching on life in the Spirit by explaining the ultimate purpose of the believer's life. According to Galatians 6:9-10, what should we as Christians be doing "while we have opportunity?"

After a passionate letter in which Paul defended his apostolic ministry and the doctrine of justification by faith alone, he ends with closing remarks that reflect a settled disposition (a mentality which should be true of all believers). Using the following words, fill in the blanks below to represent each aspect of Paul's parting words:

prayer persecution popularity pretense peace praise

Galatians 6:11-12, Paul *ignored* _____.

Whether due to poor eyesight or writing in a flurry, Paul used the physical sloppiness of his penmanship (since he did not use a secretary for this epistle) as an illustration to explain that he wasn't concerned with a "good showing in the flesh." The content of his teaching was of greater importance than its outward appearance – exactly the opposite mentality of the Judaizers.

Galatians 6:13, Paul *exposed* _____.

Despite the fact that the Judaizers wanted the Gentiles to outwardly obey Mosaic Law by getting circumcised, Paul knew that not even the Judaizers truly kept Mosaic Law perfectly. He recognized that no one can keep the Law perfectly, and intended to reveal such hypocrisy.

Galatians 6:14-15, Paul *redirected* _____.

Rather than bragging about supposedly keeping Mosaic Law, Paul's only concern was to point to the cross – the source of not only salvation, but also freedom from loving the world and all it has to offer. Through the cross, men are made new creations, in which physical appearance is irrelevant.

Galatians 6:16, Paul *desired* _____.

After boasting in the cross, Paul extended blessings to those who also walked by that "rule" (faith in Christ's work on the cross) which would include all Jewish and Gentile believers in the church. But he also looked past the Church Age to the time when God would turn back to "the Israel of God," the nation of Israel that will embrace the cross and Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Rom 11:25-26).

Galatians 6:17, Paul *embraced* _____.

Unlike the Judaizers, Paul recognized that a life of difficulty was to be expected Christians. In fact, in his mind, the scars he bore were an infinitely greater testimony than circumcision ever could be. They were proof that he suffered for his Savior, whereas the Judaizers sought to escape all hardship.

Galatians 6:18, Paul *offered* _____.

As in other epistles, Paul ended with a warm benediction, reaffirming concern for fellow believers and hoping that God's grace would be with them (ultimately, to strengthen them live by faith alone).