



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 11, 2019

This Week's Focus: Obedience to the law of Christ is not following abstract rules or codes of behavior; it is obedience to the gracious Giver of the law in order to please the One who lovingly gave his life for us.

This Week's Text: Galatians 5:25-6:5

"Love is what the law commands and the commands are what love fulfills, because love requires direction and principles of operation. Love is motivation but it is not self-interpreting direction. Commandments are the railroad tracks on which the life empowered by the love of God poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit runs. Love empowers the engine law guides that direction."

Sinclair Ferguson

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has this passage realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- Discuss how conceit, provocation, and envy are manifestations of self-justification/works righteousness. How does the internal battle between the desires of the flesh and Spirit affect relationships/community? Explain how the gospel frees us from the feelings of prideful *superiority* and self-disdaining *inferiority*?
- What does Paul mean by being "caught in transgression"? Who is responsible for restoring wayward brothers and sisters, what is the proper motivation, and what fuels that motivation? How does having a proper gospel-identity affect how we confront others' sin (verse 1)?
- What does it mean to bear each other's burdens (verse 2)? How is bearing burdens an expression of the law of Christ/law of love (Galatians 5:13-14; John 13:34)? Why do we often fall into the trap self-sufficiency? Share examples from your life when God has sent people to help you in times of distress? Is the Holy Spirit is leading you to help shoulder someone's burden even though it means sacrificing time, energy, or money?
- What are the grounds and sufficiency of our forgiveness when we fail to love others?
- Why is it important to regularly perform a self-evaluation as Paul instructs (verses 3-4)? How is personal load-bearing (verse 5) different from selfless burden-bearing (verse 2)? Give some examples of both.
- Discuss how Jesus is the ultimate burden bearer who shouldered the guilt of our sin and purchased our justification.
- How does this text encourage you to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those in your spheres of influence?