

## “Life in Community”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### Message Summary

False teachers went to the Galatian churches shortly after Paul planted them and taught that they must practice the Mosaic Law and believe in Jesus in order to have eternal life. In other words, they taught works-righteousness rather than Christ’s-righteousness. So Paul wrote to these confused Galatian believers in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

Paul spent the majority of his letter explaining that righteousness is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. And because they had trusted in the righteousness of Christ for their own righteousness, they were now free and no longer under the obligation of the Law. Further, these Galatian gentiles were now part of God’s family and had the promised Holy Spirit dwelling within each of them. These believers were free in Christ.

As Paul always does throughout each of his letters, Paul not only taught the Galatians the doctrinal truths of justification by faith but helped them understand the practical implications of these truths. In Galatians 5:13 Paul said, “*For you were called to freedom.*” He went on to say their freedom in Christ was given to them, not for themselves, but to love others. They were set free to love. This happens through serving others, meeting their needs, and obeying Jesus’ commands to fulfill the law of neighbor love. For Paul, and for us, this is the fruit of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Just as Christ loved us, we love others. Just as Christ served us, we serve others. Just as Christ was led by the Spirit, so we are led by the Spirit. Therefore walking by the Spirit doesn’t produce the works of the flesh. Rather it is evident that one walks by the Spirit because he/she produces the fruit of the Spirit.

In Galatians 5:25-6:5 Paul further clarifies what it means to walk in step with the Spirit. He said that a person who lives by the Spirit walks in step with the Spirit. And to walk in step with the Spirit means to live in community with other believers in such a way that the Spirit of God is manifest in the lives of the whole community. To be a Spirit-led community we will concern ourselves with unity around the Gospel, restore the sinning brother or sister, and minister to those who are hurting among us. We will accomplish this by serving, correcting, and caring for one another’s needs.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community ask yourself the following questions. How am I serving others in my Missional Community, church, and neighborhood? How am I correcting my brothers and sisters in Christ as well as receiving correction? Finally, how am I caring for the needs of others? Your answers to these questions will reveal whether or not you are living in a Spirit-led community!

### Message Outline

As a Spirit-led community we will...

1. Unite the body not divide it because of pride (26).  
Through...
  - Humility.
  - Service.
  - Sacrificial Love.
2. Restore those who are sinning (1).
  - With Gentleness.
  - In humility.
3. Bear one another’s burdens (2-3).
  - As Christ bore our burdens.
  - Making us conscious of our own sin.
4. Individually be Responsible for our own work (4-5).
  - By self-examination.
  - By standing before the Judgment of Christ.

Therefore how are you...

1. Serving one another?
2. Correcting one another?
3. Caring for one another?

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### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 5:25-6:5:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.