

### **Doing Good to All**

*6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load. <sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.*

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

### **Not Circumcision but the New Creation**

*<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!*

*<sup>12</sup> Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor un-circumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.*

### LAUNCH

- If Christ were not your chief boast what do you think might be? ( feel free to be light and humorous in your responses ).
- When was the last time you were confronted or caught doing something that you knew to be wrong? How did you respond? Were you angry or defensive? Did you sweep it under the carpet and move on quickly? How do you think you should have responded?

### DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

- What guidelines are given in verse 1 as to how we should restore those around us?
- How are we likely to be tempted in the act of restoring others? In what areas of sin does the restorer become vulnerable?
- What sort of burdens do you think your group is called to carry as you live in community together? What are some of the ways in which you can support each other more effectively regarding particular burdens that members of the group are carrying at the present time?

- How does the carrying of one another's burdens fulfil the law of Christ? What is the key difference between Christ's law and the Mosaic law?
- What are the dangers of comparing our own actions with those of others especially in Christian service and ministry? How do we guard against these dangers?
- In verse 9 Paul suggests we might grow weary of doing good. What particular areas of doing good might cause you to become weary and why? What sort of harvest are we likely to reap if we do not give up?
- The key verse of Steve Brading's preach was Paul's desire that he should boast in nothing except the cross. How might our lives be a lot simpler if we did the same?

#### APPLICATION

- Pray for anyone in the group who is feeling particularly burdened at the moment.
- Pray for opportunities for us to share the cross of Christ with those around us
- Pray that we will each find our unique role both within the cell and the church where we can thrive without the need to compare ourselves to others.