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# Never Give Up!

## Galatians 6

What will living by the Spirit actually look like? Different, perhaps, to what many Christians seem to expect. For starters, it won't necessarily have all the exotic and exciting features you'll find in some "charismatic" churches. It's much more down to earth. On the other hand, you won't find the harsh, judgemental legalism that so many "conservative" churches seem to specialise in.

**Read Galatians 6:1-10.** Some of the qualities of "church life" that Paul mentions are listed below. Find the verse references they appear in, and write the verse numbers beside them..

	gentleness
	restoration
	burden bearing
	modesty
	sharing
	doing good



**How would it feel to be part of a church like this?**

**What do YOU personally need to change to become a suitable member of a church like this?**

**Paul says, you can't plant prickles and expect to harvest strawberries. What have YOU been planting?**

**How do the principles of "gentle restoration" differ from "legalism"?**

### Looking closer...

a. Because our sinful nature is always ready to oppose the urgings of God's Spirit, we will always be humble in our dealings with the sins of another. "Watch yourself," says Paul, "or you may also be tempted." What other key problem areas does Paul foresee in verses 3 and 4? Look back at Galatians 5:15 and 26.

b. Have you seen first hand the effects these things can have on a church? How can we work to avoid them? Are there things the Spirit is moving you to confess and repent of in these areas?

c. How important does Paul consider the teaching of God's word? How does he say those being taught should respond?

d. Some people sow (that is, invest their time, energy and resources) to please the sinful nature. What will they reap?

e. What will be involved in sowing to please the Spirit?

Why is this tiring? How can we encourage each other "not to give up?" (Heb 10:24-25 may give some ideas)

f. We live in a world with almost endless needs and problems, yet our own resources are limited. How does verse 10 help us prioritise our efforts to "do good?"

## Parting words...

**Read Paul's closing comments in Galatians 6:11-18.**

- a) How do these verses summarise the issues we've seen running all the way through the letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Remember, those opposed to Paul's gospel are "christians" who want to take on the Jewish law as well. Why does their position "avoid persecution"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c) What matters to the false teachers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d) What matters to Paul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e) How - according to what you have learned in chapters 5 and 6 - does the "new creation" come about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f) How has studying Galatians changed your perspective on "what counts"?

