

Theme: Our life of freedom in the Spirit is one of personal responsibility and mutual care, looking forward to our final reward..

I. Intro – How to Live Free by the Spirit

- A. Paul has said we are free by the Spirit
- B. He said we must keep in step with the Spirit
- C. How does this look in practical terms?
- D. What general principles define this life?

II. A Life of Personal Responsibility

- A. Examine yourself (v4a)
 - 1. A call for personal examination & testing
 - 2. Socrates & CR! (quotes)
 - 3. We test & examine our **works** – not ‘hearts’
 - 4. This prevents us from being deceived (v3)
- B. Don’t compare yourself with others (v4b)
 - 1. Test yourself – but not against others!
 - 2. We test our strength against their weakness
- C. Carry your own load (v5)
 - 1. Not independence – personal responsibility

- 2. 2 Thess 3:6-12 – irresponsibility not freedom

III. A Life of Mutual Care

- A. A life of community – not isolation
 - 1. Personal responsibility is not isolation!
 - 2. Whole section is community oriented (1,2,6,10)
 - 3. Works of flesh tear up community (5:15,19-21, 26)
 - 4. Fruit of Spirit is community oriented (22-23)
- B. Share with your instructors (v6)
 - 1. Speaking of financially supporting teachers
 - 2. They share with you – you share with them!
- C. Carry each others burdens (v2)
 - 1. Different word from load in v5
 - 2. Burden probably includes sin/temptation
 - 3. We are to help one another!
- D. Restore those caught in sin (v1)
 - 1. People will struggle with sin!
 - 2. Spiritual ones must restore them **gently**
 - 3. We will all be tempted!

IV. A Life With Long Term Perspective

- A. The law of sowing and reaping (v7)
 - 1. Applies to everyone – God is not mocked
 - 2. Question is – what are we sowing?
- B. Sowing & reaping to flesh or Spirit (v8)
 - 1. Only 2 possibilities – our flesh or God's Spirit
 - 2. What we sow determines the outcome!
- C. Keeping a long term perspective (vv9-10)
 - 1. Don't get weary – harvest will come
 - 2. Real harvest is end of age

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see how this is counter-cultural?
 - 1. We live in a culture of victimization
 - 2. We live in a culture of isolation
 - 3. We live in a culture of instant gratification
- B. How are you doing – examine yourself!
 - 1. Are you sowing to the flesh or the Spirit?
 - 2. Are you personally responsible/hard working?

- 3. Do you serve others in need? – Community!
- 4. Do you live with long term perspective?

The Life of Freedom in the Spirit

Galatians 6:1-10

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Water Baptism

Romans 15:5-6

The unexamined life is not worth living
Socrates

We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves
Celebrate Recovery, Step 4

6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." 11 We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.
2 Thessalonians 3:6-12