

Fruit Enhanced Relationships

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Galatians 5:25-6:5

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The Gospel is not just intellectual idea – it's a reality that changes lives!

- what difference does the gospel make in your relationships?
- how does the gospel affect how you look at yourself in terms of others?
- how does the gospel affect how you look at others in terms of yourself?

The Gospel is very practical & have an impact on our relationships

- New self-image based upon being in-Christ rather than comparing with others
- Gospel allows us to be both bold and humble at the same time
- Gospel allows us to relate to others rather than comparing ourselves to those above or below us
- The Gospel transforms us Rm 12:1-2
- Gospel reality of life: battle of flesh vs Spirit 17; Spirit crucifies flesh 24; now we live for Spirit 25

Paul Warns Us to Not become Conceited v26

- Conceited - being proud without basis or justification
- Conceit often makes us:
 - think we are better than others, we desire honor & provoke those who challenge
 - think we are inferior to others, we are devastated & envy others
- Note: inferiority & superiority against others are BOTH forms of conceit Phil 2:3

Viewed from works based righteousness - a theme of Galatians:

- Both the superior or inferior person are trying to gain worth by comparing with others
- Both seek to gain identity from others rather than Christ
- Both forget the Glorious Gospel - our identity is found ONLY in Christ!

Provoking or Envyng Checkup:

- Do I have a tendency to 'blow up' OR do I tend to 'clam up'?
- Do I tend to pick arguments OR do I seek to avoid confrontation?
- Do I tend to get down on others OR am I embarrassed or intimidated by others?
- When criticized do I get angry & judgmental OR do I get discouraged and defensive?
- Do you think: I would never do what they did OR I could never do what they did?

Back to a Gospel Based Self-Image:

- In Christ, we have a whole new identity of self and others - not based upon comparison with others, but upon Christ and His work!
- Only the Gospel makes us neither self-confident nor self-disdaining.
- The Gospel makes us both bold and humble:
- **BOLD** - I am a Son of God, accepted in Christ! I am loved by God.
Gal 4:5; Eph 1:6
- **HUMBLE** - I am a sinner saved ONLY by God's Amazing Grace
Gal 5:21; Eph 2:8
- We need to preach the Gospel to ourselves and one-another regularly
Phil 2:3-5; Heb 3:13
- Beware of the errors Paul has warned against v26 : Moralism & Hedonism
- Remember the Gospel FREES you to live for God's glory... when you are tempted to provoke or envy others remember these Gospel truths:
- God is Great – so I don't have to be in control, He is!
- God is Glorious – so I don't have to fear others, just fear my God
- God is Good – so I don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction, my God has and will supply all I ever want!
- God is Gracious – so I don't have to prove myself, Christ's work on my behalf is all the proof I need, now I live for His glory!

Put it into action:

- memorize the 4 G's
- daily, analyze your day and heart – have I lived for Jesus or for myself (Spirit or flesh)?
- When was I tempted to envy or provoke? How does the Gospel help me have a better relationship?
- write out – what should I instead think on – how is Jesus more Great, Glorious, Good or Gracious than what I was setting my sights on?
- How does that affect my relationship with ___?