

Daily Devotional, September 17, 2020 Love Them All

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

Division and discord feel as rampant as ever, and nowhere is that more evident than in social media. Snark and sarcasm have become weapons of choice, wielded to belittle those who hold opposing views. As polarization seems to grow, it is extremely difficult not to view the “other side” as the enemy.

Reading these verses from Galatians in this context makes me react as if I’ve just been administered smelling salts. Do good to everyone? Even the person whose worldview or political position feels like a threat or totally misguided and not well thought out? To continue to do right to the person I have repeatedly gone out of the way for and who has never returned a single favor or even thanked me once for my efforts?

Yes, Paul says, especially if that person shares in the familial blood of Christ. Every action has results. If you plant to please your own desires, you’ll reap a crop of sorrow and evil. If you plant to please God, you’ll reap joy and everlasting life. Should there be any question as to what kind of seed you should plant?

The phrase “as we have opportunity,” echoes similar sentiments throughout the New Testament, all expressing the truth that, until Jesus returns, we live in an age where ***“we must do the works of him who sent me” [Jesus] John 9:4 (NIV)***. Hebrews calls this time “today” ***“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,. Hebrews 3:7-8 (NIV)***

In other words, this is an age of opportunity. God designed it as such. As crazy as that might seem, God has good works for us, his people, to accomplish — works that build his coming Kingdom by showing and revealing his love through Christ, and that offer a taste of that Kingdom with the wonderful, family unity in diversity that will be one of its hallmarks.

Kind words, service, encouragement, mercy, honor, care, blessing — the opportunity for such good to be done for all others knocks at every moment. Even on social media. Will you answer continue to object and oppose or will you answer in respect and in love?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive me for the many times I’ve treated another person as my enemy, especially when they are a brother or sister in Christ. Every human being is made in your image, and your love extends to every one of us. Open my eyes that I might see the many opportunities to do good that you give, and empower me by your Spirit to boldly walk in them, no matter who is on the receiving end. I pray to you for mercy and understanding. Amen.