

Galatians 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Analysis

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Paul applies the sowing principle practically. "As we have therefore opportunity" (ara oun hōs kairon echomen, ἄρα οὖν ὡς καιρὸν ἔχομεν)—so then, as we have opportune time. Kairos again: the right season, timely opportunity. Opportunities for good works are limited; we must seize them. "Let us do good unto all men" (ergazōmetha to agathon pros pantas, ἐργαζώμεθα τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς πάντας)—let us work the good toward all people. Present subjunctive: continuous action. Believers should actively do good to everyone, regardless of their response or belief.

"Especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (malista de pros tous oikeious tēs pisteōs, μάλιστα δὲ πρὸς τοὺς οἰκείους τῆς πίστεως)—especially to the family members of the faith. Oikeios (οἰκεῖος) means household members, relatives, family. While doing good to all, believers have special responsibility to fellow Christians. This isn't exclusive tribalism but priority ordering: love extends to all, with special care for the family of God. Jesus loved all but gave particular attention to His disciples. The church is covenant family requiring mutual care.

Historical Context

Early Christianity's social ethic was revolutionary: care for all people (the good Samaritan principle, Luke 10:25-37) with special provision for Christian community (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37). This challenged both Jewish tribalism (care

only for fellow Jews) and Greco-Roman patronage (care only for those who could reciprocate). Christians cared for plague victims, exposed infants, widows, orphans—shocking pagan society. This demonstrated gospel reality. Contemporary application: Christians should pursue universal human flourishing while prioritizing care within the church. Kingdom ethic is both/and: love for neighbor and special provision for brothers/sisters in Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance doing good to 'all men' with 'especially' caring for fellow believers?
2. What specific opportunities for doing good are currently available to you that you're not seizing?
3. How does viewing the church as 'household of faith'—family—shape your commitment to fellow believers?

Interlinear Text

ἄρα	οὖν	ὥς	καιρὸν	ἔχομεν	ἐργαζώμεθα	τὸ	ἀγαθὸν
therefore	G3767	As	opportunity	we have	let us do	G3588	good
G686		G5613	G2540	G2192	G2038		G18
πρὸς	πάντας	μάλιστα	δὲ	πρὸς	τοὺς		
unto	all	G3122	men especially	unto	G3588		
G4314	G3956		G1161	G4314			
οἰκείους	τῆς	πίστεως					
them who are of the household	G3588	of faith					
G3609		G4102					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:16 (Good): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Proverbs 3:27 (Good): Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (Good): See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Matthew 25:40 (Parallel theme): And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Titus 3:8 (Faith): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Hebrews 6:10 (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Ephesians 2:19 (Parallel theme): Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

John 12:35 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Luke 6:35 (Good): But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Psalms 37:3 (Faith): Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

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