

## What Does It Mean To Mock God? - Ron Stullenbarger -

Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia because they were struggling to maintain the Christian doctrine they had been taught. Teachers had come to the city insisting that Gentile Christians needed to enter into Jewish practices, like circumcision, if they were to truly be accepted by God. At the same time, Gentile believers were teaching that no matter what a person did, they could be forgiven. Many Gentiles wanted to maintain some of their sinful practices and used the message of forgiveness to distort spiritual truth.

The book of Galatians is among the most relevant books for the American culture. Galatians 5 ends with a powerful message. The gist: Christians are to live by the power, purpose, and priority of God's Holy Spirit. That is what it means to be "*Spirit-led*." God's people have often wanted "*five easy steps*" to forgiveness or "*ten ways to know God's will*." The truth: God gave us His Holy Spirit so that we could "*keep in step*" with Him (Gal. 5:25).

Paul, in chapter 6, calls the mature, Spirit-led Christians to restore the brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the standards of the Christian faith. He tells the mature Christians to be careful, because it will be tempting to trip over their own set of sins while trying to help others with theirs.

It is then Paul writes verse 7, "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*" What does it mean to "*mock God*?"

*"As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same"* (Job 4:8). The point is this: "*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*" (see 2 Corinthians 9:6).

Basically, a person mocks God when they think they can live apart from His laws. We can't plant wheat seeds and think we will grow corn. We mock God if we think we can fool Him because we can fool others. We mock God if we think we are more intelligent, more forward thinking, or more advanced than His Word. We mock God and His Word if we try to change it.

God grieves every child lost and He grieves every sin that separates people from His love and direction. God grieves the rallies, the politics, and the obscuring of His truth, whether that takes place in the media or in the church.

God's Word has always been the same, and He cannot be mocked. When people break His laws, there are always consequences. God loves all of us and wants us to spend our days on earth Spirit-led. He gave us Scripture so we could understand how to live our earthly lives and how to live one day in heaven. God's Word, like God, cannot be mocked. Truth cannot be a lie.