



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/MAY 2013

Galatians 6:1-10

[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load. [6] Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED

[7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



Lessons About Reaping

Having recently helped me plant flowers, my five year-old neighbor, Jamison, returned to water the growing plants. With our work finished, we made ourselves peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. As we ate I noticed him picking the sesame seeds off the bread and thought nothing of it until he asked, "What are these?"

"Seeds," I answered. "Sesame seeds."

"Can I put them in the dirt?"

Not wanting to disappoint him, I replied, "Sure, after you finish your lunch." His face beamed in anticipation, "I can't wait to grow a sandwich."



TEACHING TIP. Pray that those with whom you share biblical truths will embrace God's ways and not cling to well-entrenched unbiblical ideas or sin.



TEACHING TIP. The ABCs can help you share the gospel. **A**dmit you are a sinner and repent. **B**elieve in Jesus Christ, God's son, who is the way, truth, and life. **C**onfess your faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, John 3:16)



TEACHING TIP. Help your students, whatever their ages, understand the obedience, wisdom, and blessing of honoring their mom, not only on Mother's Day, but every day of the year.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We chuckle when a child puts two plus two together and comes up with "a sandwich." But how often do we do the same thing?

Paul, in his letter to the churches in Galatia, warns, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that he will also reap."

As believers in Jesus Christ and people who have been given the right to be called children of God, we can be lulled into thinking that the principle of sowing and reaping doesn't apply to us. But Paul warns believers not to be deceived.

Why do we think we can sow the seeds of sin and reap a holy life?

"...[T]he one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...." So why do we think we can sow seeds of viewing illicit media and reap a pure heart? Or sow the seeds of any sinful behavior and reap a holy life? God is not mocked.

Earlier Paul teaches the Galatians: Christ has indeed set us free from the yoke of slavery, but we are not to use our "freedom as an opportunity for the flesh." Rather we are to serve one another through love.



John Newitt

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.

How are you using your Christ-bought freedom?

How are you using your Christ-bought freedom? Are you sowing seeds of sin or are you walking by the Spirit, serving others in love?

Are you sure? We do not want to be deceived like my young neighbor who naively desired to plant sesame seeds expecting to harvest a peanut butter and jelly sandwich!

We are thrilled to have John as the newest member of the event planning committee, the team of individuals who work throughout the year on the details of the semi-annual training conferences. Although new to the committee, John has been serving as a volunteer at the conferences for decades. We are so grateful for his faithfulness and desire to serve.

FROM THE EDITOR

My mother-in-law recently shared with me, "There is no place the lessons of sowing and reaping are greater than in the raising of children."



As we journey into May and our celebration of Mother's Day, may we take the lessons of sowing and reaping to heart. Whether we are parents or teachers, may we sow wisely into the lives of the next generation.

Serving with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen
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REGISTER TODAY

Enjoy \$35 early bird registration for the October 19 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference at Ward Church in Northville, Michigan. Registration information is available online at www.iceaOnline.org

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