

The 7 Laws of the Harvest -, Law 2

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting

Law 1: We Reap Only What Has Been Sown

Law 2: We Reap the Same in Kind as We Have Sown

Law 3: We Reap in a Different Season Than We Sow

Law 4: We Reap More Than We Sow

Law 5: We Reap in Proportion to What We Sow

Law 6: We Reap if We Persevere

We Reap the Full Harvest of the Good only if We Persevere

Law 7: We Can't Do Anything About Last Year's Harvest

Law 2: We Reap the Same In Kind As We Sow

If anyone had told David before or even right after his affair with Bathsheba (**2 Sam. 11**) that he would break every one of the laws of the second table of the Law, he would have denied it with all his might and replied that they were more than just a little crazy.

But the laws of sowing and reaping and this law in particular, "**we reap the same in kind as we sow,**" strongly stress our need to follow the admonition to "**take heed lest we fall.**"

One of the fundamental laws of nature is that we reap the same in kind as we have sown. If a farmer plants wheat, he will harvest wheat – not barley, corn, oats, or anything else – only wheat.

The man who plants a pecan orchard will not see oranges, apples, pears, or any other fruit on the branches of his trees. Whatever is harvested will be *like* that which was planted.

The same is true in the realm of human and spiritual relationships.

King David is an excellent example of this. He had sown sexual lust and murder; he would reap the same in the lives of his children. The sword, symbolic of violence, would never cease to be associated with his house.

Although forgiven, his sin would continue to produce fruit in the lives of others for many generations.

However, this law is also positive.

Imagine what life for a farmer would be like if he never knew what the seed he planted was going to produce.

Suppose he planted wheat, but the seed produced Johnson grass instead?

Yet, we know that will never happen.

God's second law of the harvest prevents it. In the same way, you and I can be sure that when we sow good seed, we will reap a good harvest in the lives of others.

Before this incident was over, David: coveted his neighbor's wife--**2 Sam. 11:2, 3**, committed adultery--**2 Sam. 11:4**, committed murder--**2 Sam. 11:15**, stole--**2 Sam. 11:4** and, bore false witness--**11:8, 21**.

David's downfall into sin **posts a serious warning** to each of us of the deceitfulness of sin and its dire consequences in the law of sowing and reaping:

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Heb 3:13)

This was just the beginning because each of these sins would be reaped within his own family.

I. Foundation for this Law

1. At creation, God ordered everything to reproduce **"after his kind."**

a. Fish do not become reptiles.

b. Monkeys do not become men.

2. This principle has never been broken – not in life, and not in the laboratory.

A. God determined in Creation for all things to multiply after its kind.

Genesis 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

B. Note the principle of reproduction.

"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:" (Gen 5:3)

The principle of spiritual reproduction (John 3:3-6)

1. What is born of the flesh can never reproduce spiritual life any more than plant life can evolve into animal life.

a. When Adam disobeyed God and sinned in the garden, he reaped the consequences of his action: spiritual death – the loss of fellowship and relationship with God.

b. As a sinner, Adam could only reproduce children who would likewise be sinners.

- Psalm 51:5. When the psalmist states that he was conceived in sin, he was acknowledging that he was born a sinner with a predisposition towards sin.

- **Job 15:14-16.** Job understood that man is born a sinner and has a "thirst" for sin.

c. Apart from divine intervention, Adam's sin prevented man from reaping any spiritual fruit!

2. By receiving God's gift of salvation, man experiences a spiritual birth ("*born of the Spirit*") with a new capacity to bear spiritual fruit.

a. When men reject God's salvation and "**sow**" the seeds of their fallen nature, society always experiences moral degeneration and decay. **SEE GALATIANS 6:8a.**

b. The Christian who cooperates with the Holy Spirit and bears His fruit reproduces godliness and reaps eternal benefits.

SEE GALATIANS 6:8b.

C. **We all recognize** that this is true in the biological and zoological world, but what is true in the physical world, is also true in the spiritual world.

1. Adam was created after the image of God, and he would reproduce that image from generation to generation

2. Because he was created for fellowship with God and to walk in dependence on Him, Adam would likewise reap the results of his actions.

3. When he took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he reaped the results: spiritual death in his own life and the life of his posterity.

4. As a further consequence of his negative choice to live independently, his sinfulness was transmitted from generation to generation.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Rom 5:12)

5. Apart from divine intervention, the fall halted man's ability to sow and reap spiritual fruit and experience any fellowship with God.

6. Adam reaped spiritual death (loss of fellowship with God) and began to die physically.

D. Note the Principle of Regeneration

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor 5:17)

1. Through God's grace and the gift of spiritual regen-er-a-tion, man gains the capacity to sow and reap spiritual fruit and reap the blessing of God on his life and in the world.

2. Note: **John 3:6**

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6)

3. This is the law of reaping the same in kind as we sow.

4. Be-cause of this, the natural man can only sow and reap according to the flesh.

5. But in Christ, we become new spiritual creations, new creatures with the capacity to sow and reap of the Spir-it

Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

II. Proclamation of this Law

1. Deception can come from **two sources.**

a. **The devil** actively attempts to blind men to God's truth and the consequences of sin. **2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 2:8**

b. **We deceive ourselves** when we ignore the truth that we have received or think that God will not hold us accountable for the choices we make or the things we do.

2. God will not be mocked. God does not permit anyone to disregard his principles and live as he pleases and escape the consequences.

A. This principle as stated in **Galatians 6** is an **absolute law** .

1. Paul warns us not to be deceived concerning this truth.

2. **"Be not deceived"** = "to cause to wander, lead astray, deceive."

3. It literally means, stop allowing yourself to be deceived, led astray, or never allow it to happen.

4. It warns and re-minds us that Satan and the world system under his control.

5. He is ever at work with his age-old lie, **"you surely shall not die!"**

6. "God is not mocked."

a. "Mocked" means "to turn up the nose at, to treat with contempt, to ridicule."

b. Man cannot ignore and treat with contempt God's truth and laws by attempting to live by his own wisdom and tactics without serious consequences.

B. This law all inclu-sive--it applies to any and everything we sow.

1. **"...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap..."**

2. The words **"that shall he also"** makes the connection in kind to what we reap.

3. Since everything reproduces after its kind, God can never be mocked.

4. Just as no one can sow peas and produce watermelon, or breed donkeys and produce thoroughbred horses, so no one can sow evil and produce good.

5. We cannot sow discord and produce unity.

6. We cannot sow lies and produce truth.

7. We cannot sow sin and produce holiness.

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." (Mt 12:34-35)

Here is something for us to think about:

Sow a thought, reap an act;

Sow an act, reap a habit;

Sow a habit, reap a character;

Sow a character, reap a destiny

Sow trust in the Lord and reap eternity.

It is explained as an absolute. *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* Gal. 6:7

1. The word *whatsoever* makes this law **all-inclusive**. It applies to anything and everything we sow.

2. The words *that ... also* declares that we will reap the **same IN KIND as we have sown.**

a. This law is POSITIVE in that:

If we sow of the Spirit, we shall reap of the Spirit.

If we sow the Gospel, we will reap converts.

If we sow biblical instruction into the lives of our children, we will reap godly character from their lives.

b. This law is NEGATIVE in that:

If we sow to the flesh, we shall reap carnality.

If we sow evil, we will reap evil.

If we sow indifference to God and godly priorities, we will reap coldness, insensitivity, apathy, and hardness of heart.

Illustrations of this Law From Scripture

From the Psalms

1. Psalm 1:1-6.

a. The person who shuns the counsel and company of the world and sows the Word of God into his life will reap a blessed and fruitful life.

b. The person who sows ungodliness will reap an unstable life and the condemnation of God.

2. Psalm 5:10-11

a. Those who reject God's counsel will be destroyed by their folly; those who persist in sin will reap the fruit of their activities.

b. The person who sows an attitude of faith (marked by obedience and trust) will reap a season of rejoicing.

3. Psalm 7:15-16. Those who sow deception and prey off the lives of others will eventually be caught by their own devices.

From the Proverbs

1. **Proverbs 11:18**

a. Those who sow wickedness employ themselves in a deceitful work – it promises one thing, but delivers something else.

b. Those who sow righteousness reap a **sure** reward – they will not be disappointed with the fruit of their labor.

2. **Proverbs 22:8a.** Another verse that declares that sin does not deliver the satisfaction it advertises.

3. **Proverbs 26:27.**

From the Words of Christ

1. **Matthew 5:7-8**

a. The one that sows mercy will reap mercy.

b. The one who sows purity will reap fellowship with God.

2. **Luke 6:37-38**

a. If we sow judgment, we will reap criticism.

b. If we sow condemnation, we will reap rejection.

c. If we sow forgiveness, we will reap forgiveness.

d. **Verse 38** declares that whatever we give, It shall be returned to us.

3. **Mark 8:35**

a. The Christian who lives for selfish purposes (whether for wealth, influence, comfort, or success) will reap a wasted life.

Thinking he is "**saved**" his life for his own use, he will actually "**lose**" the value or reward that he has now lost for all eternity.

b. The Christian who lives for the sake of Christ and the Gospel, though he may forfeit certain things right now that men value, he will preserve the value of his life for eternity.

APPLICATION:

In the church, we will reap exactly what we have sown.
If we are concerned for lost souls and witness for Christ, we can expect to see souls saved and families added to the church.

If we are not seeing souls saved, there can only be one reason: we have not been sowing the Gospel as we should.

To say otherwise would be to be deceived:

In our lives, we reap the values, attitude, and character that we have sown.

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