

Remnant Life Church  
August 24, 2025  
**Guarding Your Testimony**  
Galatians 6

Next Sunday we will be having a Testimony service

- For those of you not familiar with what that is...
- We will be having several people come up front and share with us what God had done or is doing in their life
  - Some have indicated to me already that they would like to come up and speak
  - Others of you may decide during the service that you would like to participate
- It is an opportunity for you to share with others God's goodness, His healing, His mercy, whatever way He is being active in your life

We do this for several reasons

- The first is to give God glory
- The second is to encourage one another
- Third, for you to reinforce your commitment to serve God with your life and acknowledge His presence in your daily life

Last Sunday we talked about why it is so important to know and have your testimony ready to share

- The first is that you were meant to share your testimony
  - Because that is what God did at creation
  - He testified to His love for us by creating this world for us to live in
  - And then sent His Son to die in our place, pay for our sins, so that we could one day be with Him in heaven
  - Adam and Eve were then the first recipients of God's testimony
- The second reason is because there is power in your testimony when it is shared with others
- But there are also things that you can and should do to make your testimony, not just an account of something that happened to you, but a powerful instrument that could lead someone to the place of accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior
  - The first thing is that you must do good
    - Your actions must match the words of your testimony
  - The second is to keep your focus on the cross
    - Your testimony should much more about what God has done rather than the person you used to be
  - The third is that you must live assured and convinced of the fact that you are a different person because of Jesus
    - I did not say you are perfect or free of sin
    - But you are not the same and when you fail you know to confess your sin, ask for forgiveness, and then live out the consequences of that sin in a way that gives glory to God

**READ – Galatians 6**

This morning I would like for us to briefly look at 4 things that can ruin your testimony:

## 1. Pride

- a. Pride is at the root of every single sin in our lives
  - i. The Scripture speaks to pride and not only the danger of it but how much God's hates pride
  - ii. **Prov 8:13** - *To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*
  - iii. The Bible speaks to the evil of pride over 100 times
- b. But the way that it can damage your testimony is that pride takes what rightfully belongs to God, the glory of what He has done, and instead is kept by the individual
- c. Paul speaks to this in **Gal 6:14** – *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*
- d. Unfortunately, we often see the results of pride in the supposed works of ministries
  - i. False healers
    1. Much has been made over the years about those who claim to heal people by faith but in reality do nothing
    2. You could call these people waterless clouds
    3. They promise much but deliver nothing
    4. Even when God does heal, often the credit is taken by the one who God is working through
  - ii. People who have an issue with pride find it very difficult to give others praise or glory – even to God
    1. In **Acts 12** we read of the rather ignominious end of Herod the Great
    2. A man who accomplished so much but in the end his pride was his downfall
    3. **Acts 12:19b-23** - *Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*
    4. Herod accomplished many things but, like what can happen to your testimony, it was all lost in a moment because of pride

## 2. Comparing Yourself to Others

- a. This is something that we have talked about often here at RLC

- i. Comparing life, your experiences, your walk with the Lord with other people is an exercise in futility
  - ii. Nothing good can be gained from it other than perhaps if you take encouragement to continue in your walk to the best of your ability
- b. We are all different!
  - i. God loves variety
  - ii. Look around you at His creation
    - 1. The numbers vary widely but many scientists estimate that there are somewhere between 6.5 and 8.5 million different species that inhabit this planet
      - a. Invertebrates – insects, mollusks and sponges – 7.5 million
      - b. Vertebrates – mammals, birds, reptiles, fish – 66,000
      - c. Plants – flowering, ferns, mosses - 300,000
    - 2. No two fingerprints are alike
    - 3. No two eye-patterns (iris) are alike
    - 4. No 2 snowflakes
  - iii. God loves variety
  - iv. But that does not mean we measure who we are in life to someone else
    - 1. That will only lead to envy, jealousy, lose of self-worth
    - 2. God made you unique and special
    - 3. Your testimony will be unique and special to you as well – because it is YOUR story

### 3. Lying to Yourself

- a. How many times have you heard someone say, “Now, be honest with me.”?
  - i. Honesty is vitally important in any relationship
  - ii. Without it there can be no trust, no foundation for the relationship to grow
- b. But how many of you would say that you are truly honest with yourselves?
- c. What does that mean?
  - i. As we have already said, the actions of your life must match the words of your testimony
  - ii. Are you honest regarding the spiritual condition of your life?
    - 1. We find it very easy to justify our actions if it is something that we want to hold onto
    - 2. Even when it is unhealthy, sketchy, or just plain sinful
      - a. I don’t have a problem with drinking, it’s just a social thing
      - b. I don’t have a problem with gossip, I just want people to know that I care
      - c. I don’t have a problem with lying, I’m just sparing their feelings
  - iii. That is why in **Matt 7:3** Jesus asks this question, *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*
    - 1. The front lesson of this is that we should not judge others
    - 2. But Jesus is also saying that we must be aware, be honest about what is going on in our own lives

- d. This brings us to the danger of blind spots
  - i. They are dangerous because you cannot see them – hence the name
  - ii. And if you are lying to yourself about something going on in your life that should not be there, I can promise you are not being accountable to anyone
  - iii. And that goes back to pride, but it is also why many of the things of our lives that should not be there remain
    - 1. Remember, your actions must match the words of your testimony
    - 2. If you are lying to yourself, that will not be able to happen

#### 4. Living with Known Sin

- a. This goes hand-in-hand with lying to yourself
  - i. As I said, we often find it easy to justify the things we do that we know we should not and allow the sin to remain
  - ii. Nothing will ruin your testimony faster than allowing sin to remain in your life
- b. Once again, pride is the home where this action will live
- c. There are countless examples of this happening
  - i. In the Bible we already mentioned King Herod
  - ii. Samson continued to live in a way that was displeasing to God because of his pride
  - iii. But in both these cases, it was much less about their actions and much more about the condition of the sin in their hearts
  - iv. Billy Graham said this about sin
    - 1. *When we use the word “sin,” we usually think of our misdeeds – actions or habits we know are wrong. But those are specific sins, and they are the results of sin, the deep spiritual disease that infects our souls. Sin is the cause; sins are the effect. Sin is the tree; sins are the fruit. Sin is the disease; sins are the symptoms.*
  - v. To ignore sin in your life is to jeopardize all that God is doing in your life and that includes your testimony
    - 1. Jim Baker spent his entire life serving God
      - a. But he became famous and, as a result, very wealthy
      - b. He began to lie, to mislead, and manipulate the very people he was supposed to be pointing to God
      - c. It culminated with an arrest and jail time
      - d. His life’s work was destroyed because of his sin and pride
    - 2. Jimmy Swaggart spent his life in ministry
      - a. He too became well known and very wealthy
      - b. Like many men in that place of success he became unaccountable to anyone with regard to his actions
      - c. His testimony was destroyed by his involvement with prostitutes
      - d. Both of these men returned to ministry after a time – only God knows if there was true repentance
      - e. We cannot judge the hearts of others
    - 3. Jerry Falwell, Jr.

- a. President of Liberty University
  - b. Multiple incidents of morality issues, poor judgement, speaking to people about inappropriate things
  - c. Again, without accountability
  - d. Cost him his position, his reputation, and his testimony
- vi. Look at what Ryan read in **Gal 6:7** – *Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*
  - I. IOW – those who claim to be a child of God, while at the same time sowing to please their sinful nature are mocking and despising God
- vii. Paul goes on to say in **verse 8** – *The one who sows to please that sinful nature will reap destruction...*
- viii. You can take a lifetime building your testimony and destroy it in 5 minutes by allowing the known actions of sin to remain in your life

Your testimony is just that, yours

- It is your story
- A story that should reflect the love, mercy, and grace of God
- But you must protect it, you must guard it, and you must surrender your life to God anew every day to battle the temptations we are confronted with every day
  - Pride is a great killer of your testimony
  - There is no value in comparing yourself to others
  - You must be honest with yourself about who you are and how you live
  - And you cannot allow known sin to remain in your life