



Cultivating the Heart: Sowing and Reaping

There are natural laws that have been established by God. Example: gravity. An important law that God has built into the universe is the law of sowing and reaping.

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

- a) You are always sowing.
- b) There are no neutral seeds.
Deut. 30:19-20

***There are two "bags of seeds."**

- 1. Satan's bag of seeds: death (Matt. 13:24)
- 2. God's bag of seeds: life (2 Cor. 9:10)

I. The Law examined

- 1. You reap what you sow.

You always reap the same kind of thing you sowed. It is more of the same. Even if you ask for forgiveness. It is the law of natural consequences. It is one of the main ways God disciplines and trains us. (Job 4:8, Prov. 11:18)

Perhaps what we reap doesn't look just like what we sowed, but it is the same "family type."

Take for example the Beatitudes. (Matt. 5:3-10)

- 2. You reap later than you sow.

There is a time lag effect. The harvest is not usually immediate.

a) We sin and say, "It wasn't so bad after all. It looks like I got away with it." Like Eve; but she really did die.

b) We sow good seed, and shortly afterwards we "dig it up" and conclude that this isn't working. But everything that is hidden will one day be revealed.

- 3. You reap more than what you sow.

This is more than cause and effect: I hit my finger and it causes me pain. This is multiplication. For better or for worse. This should fill me with godly fear when it comes to practicing evil, and motivate me to be diligent in sowing what is good. Everything



counts. Even the smallest act is significant. (Hos. 8:7) There is a cumulative effect, like a snow ball.

David: sowed lust and murder and lying. (2 Samuel 11) What did he reap?

- 1) his baby died (12:18)
- 2) his daughter was raped (13:14)
- 3) His son Amnon murdered (13)
- 4) The rebellion of Absalom (15)
- 5) The death of Absalom (18)

His daughter and 10 concubines were raped and 3 of his sons were killed. In other words, he reaped lust and murder, multiplied.

2 Sam. 12:10 "the sword will never depart..."

II. The Seed You Sow

Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.

- 1. Devotion to God or religious superficiality
- 2. Contentment or complaining
- 3. Kindness or meanness
- 4. Honesty or deception
- 5. Purity or sensuality
- 6. The Scriptures or television
- 7. Generosity or covetousness



III. Where's the Grace?

But what if this message is "too late" for you.

Already terrible things have been sown. What about God's grace?

- 1. **The grace of consistency**

- Arbitrariness is used as a torture
- without consistency there would be nothing to learn and no way to improve.

- 2. **It is meant to bear good "fruit" even when the sowing was bad and the reaping worse.**

- Humility (Ps.51)
- God is shown to be righteous
- Wisdom

- 3. **He switched places with us for the final harvest (2 Cor.5:20-21)**

- God's grace never meant He would change the rules or overlook sin.

Conclusion

Hosea 10:12 Psalm 126:5-6