

Galatians #19

December 8, 2024

Series: Galatians: Treasuring the Gospel of Grace**Today's Message: More Like Jesus: Restoring the Sinning Brother, pt 2; Galatians 6:1-6**

It should be in our minds that Galatians 6 expands on Paul's teaching on what it means to live by the Spirit, which we studied at the end of Galatians 5. Here in chapter 6 Paul drives home how Christians, who are desiring to live by the Spirit, should walk in His power to treat brothers and sisters who have fallen into sin. The main idea of 6:1 was that the restoration of that brother or sister needs to be taken seriously by those in the Church who are standing more firmly in the faith at the time.

We are called to action. The effort to restore a brother or a sister who is caught in a "fault" is not to be ignored. Those who are "spiritual" are to think like Christ and care enough to get involved. To ignore the clear fault of a sinning brother or sister is itself an act of disobedience because of the nature of the command given in verse 1, which says, "you who are spiritual should restore him gently."

The work of "restoration" must be carried out gently as the word suggests. It is even more clear in the original language because the word means to take something and "restore it to its former condition." These people would understand that the task of restoring a brother is to be carried out with the same care that a physician would take if he was helping someone with a broken or dislocated bone. The same word is used in Mark 1:19 where the apostles were "mending their nets." In that case they were restoring their nets to a useful condition.

Though we, as Christians, have more often than not failed to get involved in restoring a sinning brother or sister, we need **not** to continue in the same pattern of disobedience any longer. Whereas we often times abuse and ostracize the injured brother by responding with gossip, harsh judgment or quiet approval, we must now resolve ourselves to take the initiative to lovingly and gently offer substantial help to our brother so that he or she may be restored to their former condition. The body, and in our case, this local church community will be better off after the process of gentle and caring restoration has occurred.

Last week I wanted us to consider Galatians 6:1 from two perspectives. The first being from the perspective of being the one to *help the sinning brother or sister*. The Second being to *be willing to be helped by the more spiritual brother or sister* if we are the one who has been caught in a sin or overtaken by a fault *without taking offense when being helped*.

Today, we will continue in Galatians 6:2-6 by learning how to *support the sinning brother or sister*. On the other hand, I want you and me to have these lessons in mind if we find ourselves being the one in need so that we will *be willing to let the more spiritual brother or sister support and restore us without being offended*.

I) (6:1) Helping the sinning brother or sister.

II) (6:2-5) Supporting the sinning brother or sister (Or, being willing to be supported and restored).

- A) (6:2) Verse 2 is in the context of "helping restore as sinning brother" as we studied in 6:1. How to...
- 1) The key idea of 6:2 is offering long lasting support, taking as long as it takes to restore that one.
 - (a) To get the person back on their feet, functioning faithfully as a member of Christ's body!
 - (i) You will serve to help strengthen them. So, it is like lifting and holding up.
 - (b) **Wisdom:** It is likely that after some degree of victory is realized that Satan will make his strongest efforts to attack and weaken that which has been strengthened (MacArthur).
 - (i) The spiritual person should be well aware of the pitfalls that accompany victories.
 - (ii) Remember the command, "watch yourselves or you also may be tempted. (6:1c)"
 - 2) "bear". This means to "support with endurance" the heavy load that up till now has been too heavy for the person to carry on their own.
 - (a) Early feelings of victory do not guarantee the strength to endure strong temptations, yet.

- (b) Strong temptations are likely going to recur. This is one of the heaviest burdens to bear and you, as the helper, need to walk with them, helping them to build up endurance.
 - 3) Tools: The spiritual brother needs to provide practical helps (tools) in order to equip the person.
 - (a) Comradery, fellowship, encouragement, accountability through regular conversations.
 - (i) The one being helped needs to allow the helper to be intimately involved for a season.
 - (a) This accountability involves time spent together in prayer and Bible study.
 - 1. Prayer is the most powerful and intimate method of “burden bearing.”
 - (ii) Paul relied on the help of others when he was discouraged. (**read 2 Corinthians 7:5-7**)
 - 4) “The law of Christ”: bearing the burden of a downcast brother fulfills the law of Christ!
 - (a) The law of Christ is to love one another. (**see John 13:34**: His command: Love one another!)
 - (i) Loving one another fulfills the law of Christ (**see Gal. 5:14**)
 - (a) Loving one another fulfills the whole law of God (**read Romans 13:8-10**)
 - (b) The law of love is the antidote for legalism. For the Galatians churches to be healed and restored to unity in Christ it was necessary to practice the law of Christ!
 - 1. **1 Peter 4:8**: Love covers a multitude of sins.
- B) (6:3) Paul warns of the most dangerous hinderance to gentle restoration of the injured brother.
 - 1) The danger of developing a self-righteous attitude. (thinking more highly of yourself (**Rms 12:3**)
 - (a) A self-righteous attitude will display itself in harsh judgment and condemnation. “They got themselves into this mess, so they can get themselves out of it!”
 - 2) Restoration involves humble involvement and accurate self-assessment. (**read Matt. 7:5**)
 - (a) If you don’t consider the plank in your own eye, you will be useless and “self-deceived.”
 - (i) In the context of the Galatian troubles, those who had a right view of the Gospel would be of no help in restoring the erring brother if they have a sense of “self-righteousness.”
- C) (6:4) Paul issues wise counsel in requiring each person to examine his own actions and motives.
 - 1) If after examination your actions are in line with Christ’s commands, it is because of the work of the Spirit in your life and not because you are in anyway better than the one you are helping.
 - 2) Do not evaluate yourself through comparisons with others, but in comparison to the Scripture.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 10:12 explains the folly of comparing ourselves with others.
- D) (6:5) Each one should carry his own load. (a word that is different from “burden” in 6:2)
 - 1) Whereas “burden” in 6:2 is a weight that encumbers, this “load” in 6:5 is comprised of those obligations or responsibilities that our Lord has personally assigned, and laid on each believer.
 - (a) Jesus provides divinely appointed “loads” for each believer. He selects and bestows upon each believer their own obligations. (**Matt. 11:30: My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.**)
 - (i) 1 John 5:3: “And this is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome.” (i.e. to love God and love one another; to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another; sharing w/ each other, etc. 1 John 3:16-24)
 - (ii) His “load” laid upon us is entirely different from the legalistic demands of Pharisees and even the Judaizers. **Luke 11:46**: “Jesus replied, ‘And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift a finger to help them.’” (Contrast that with the load Jesus gives us.)
 - (iii) **Appl**: We should not burden others with complaints about the load given us by Jesus.
 - (a) Bear this “load” as a gift and pleasure from Christ. “Each should bear his own load.”
- III) (6:6) Invest your time and efforts to teach a restored brother (or be willing to be taught to be mature).**
- A) This verse is primarily directed toward the one being restored. Be willing to learn and share progress.
 - B) But by inference, the spiritual brother should invest time in teaching the person being restored.
 - 1) The strength of this is the mutual sharing of love for the Lord’s words and teachings.
 - 2) Sharing in the “good things”: the impact and influence of the true gospel of grace to sanctify the brother or sister who is being restored (and the gospel keeps the spiritual brother grounded).
 - C) **Appl**: By feasting on sound doctrine the whole Galatians church would walk in unity in the Spirit!