

Gal 15 – Called To Restore - Gal 5:26–6:5

The **last 2 wks** we've been looking at - **Battle** between *the Spirit & the Flesh*

We started w/ that **the key Vs** back in **Gal 5:16**

16 . . . Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

We spent **1 wk** looking at the **Battle**

We spent **1 wk** looking at the **Litmus test** - - to determine **Spirit** or **Flesh**

& We **referred** often to a **previous msg** titled "*Spirit or Flesh*"

*which includes the practical steps on **HOW** to Walk in the Spirit*

Today we are **still on** that same subject - "*Walking in the Spirit*"

but today . . . *it's time* . . . for the **Rubber** to meet the **Road**

Our Txt today **describes** the First **Practical Result** –

of "*Walking in the Spirit*"

We are going to **see today** – the **First Place** we are *called* to put

Walking in the Spirit into **Practice**

& it's interesting to me - Paul **DOESN'T 1st say**; "*take what you've learned about Walking in the Spirit & go out into the world to save the lost*"

Instead he says – If you are "*Walking in the Spirit*";

then the **1st place** you apply it – is Right here **in the Church** –

The **1st place** the Apostle **Paul** applies the *Spirit filled Life* is

in our **Relationships** w/ each other **in the church !!!**

Today **we'll see** – the 1st **Practical Application** of "*Walking in the Spirit*"

Let's Pray

The **subject today** is how we are called to “**Relate**” (interact) with one another in the church

& the **truth is** - altho it’s not easy to hear . . . ;

*Our relationships with each other in the church are often determined by our opinion of ourselves - - - so **that** is where this text begins*

Gal 5:26

26 Let us not become **conceited** [self-centered], **provoking** one another [combative], **envying** [jealous of] one another.

DAVE PARAPHRASE:

*“Don’t become **self-centered**, because it will cause you to be **combative** and **jealous** of one another”*

When we **begin** “Walking in the Spirit” – the **1st thing** we must do - is **change our opinion** of ourselves

Rom 12:3

3 For I say, . . . to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, . . .

The reason we’re called to change our opinions of ourselves – is because; **If we are “self-centered” – we will be combative & jealous of one another**

Phil 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit [same word], but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better [more important] than himself.

1st - “Walking in the Spirit” means **changing** our **opinions** of ourselves
Next – it means **changing** the way we **relate to one another** - in the church

& we see that – in **Gal 6:1**

Gal 6:1(A)

I Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one . . . in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Notice the word “Brethren” - meaning **ALL** Christians . . .
& **then it says** “you who are spiritual. . . **RESTORE**”

the phrase “you who are spiritual” is broader than we’d generally think

If you’r “Born-Again” & “Walking in the Spirit” - this is what you’re **Called to do**
Every Christian who is “**spiritual**” – is “**Called to Restore**”

Now - The word “**overtaken**” means “Caught Up In” –
So – if a **brother/sister** is “**Caught Up**” in any sin –
we who **are in the Spirit** – are Called to **Restore** them

The word “**restore**” is a wonderful word – in fact, it’s a **beautiful picture**
of what **Jesus has done** for each of us who’ve put our **faith** in Him

“**Restore**” = to mend that which is torn or broken . . . – (show VS also)

The word is used for the **healing of broken bones** –
it’s also used for **mending torn fishing nets** –

but there is **a critical part** to the definition of this word –
& that is; “**in order to return to usefulness**”

“**Restore**” =
to mend that which is torn or broken, in order to return to usefulness
(show VS also)

when a bone is broken – or a net is torn – it is **not useful** –
this word “**restore**” = “**to return that which is broken - to usefulness**”

& **What** (or **Who's**) usefulness is Paul referring to ??
God's Usefulness – **usefulness** to the body of Christ

Heb 12:12-13

*12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,
13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated,
but rather be healed.*

When we **see a Christian** who is “Caught Up” “Overtaken” in **sin** -
Our CALLING - is to **Restore** that person . . .

“in order to **return them to usefulness** in the body of Christ” . . .

This may come as a SHOCK – but we are actually
NOT Called - to **judge** or **condemn** one another – but we
ARE Called - to **Restore** those **caught up** (overtaken) in sin –

Unfortunately – Judging & Condemning come easier to our Sin Nature –
& they easily **come under** - the Works of the Flesh
& they easily **lead to** other “Compounding Sins” (see **Gal 5:20**)

But **to Restore** one another – is purely a Fruit of the Spirit –
& it actually leads to “**Fulfilling the Law of Christ**” (we'll see in a minute)

You who are Spiritual - are **Called** to help **Restore other believers**
who have been “**overtaken**” (caught up) **in sin**

Let me just ask you one question;

*If we who are spiritual, would be more obedient to this calling . . .
what would happen to the general health of the church body ??*

Let's continue looking at **Gal 6:1** – asking the question;
How should we go about this business of 'Restoring'?

Gal 6:1(B)

I Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, . . . considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

KJV = “meekness” – **exact word** used in the Fruit of the Spirit (**Gal 5:23**)

Here’s the definition from last week;

8) Gentleness – *a humble and gentle attitude that is patiently submissive in every offense, while being free of any desire for revenge or retribution*

We are **Called to Restore** one another with a **Humble, Gentle, Patient Attitude** - Free from **any** desire of Retribution . . .

How do you think we’re doing . . . really ?

Are we **Actively Restoring** one another in the **spirit of gentleness**?

This is strictly the Fruit of the Spirit – there’s **NONE** of our nature here

When we are actively Restoring one another to Usefulness –
Then God is getting all the Glory – because our Nature doesn’t do this

Our Nature toward one another is **Anger, Contention, Jealousy, Wrath, & Dissentions** – all Works of the Flesh

But God **calls us** to Restore one another in a spirit of gentleness -
& the **only way** we can do that is by “Walking in the Spirit”

There’s **1 last thing** we need to learn from **Gal 6:1**

Gal 6:1(C)

I Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

As we are **restoring** one another – by “*Walking in the Spirit*” –
we must always keep in mind - **own frailties & tendency to sin**

This is **critical** for *the benefit* of **the person** we’re helping Restore –
& it’s **critical** for **Our Own** *benefit* . . . Here’s why ;

#1) Remembering that in **our sin nature**, we are capable of the same sin,
will give us a **Spirit of Gentleness**

#2) Remembering that we have the **same sin nature**, will help
“*Guard Us*” against the **same temptation**

In the ministry we’ve all heard stories about **Counselors** who
put themselves **IN** *Compromising positions*
while **counseling** someone about being in a *Compromising position*

This is **why** we have a **strict rules** about *Men Counseling Women* –
Because it can be a *very dangerous* situation

Now - **moving on to V. 2** - we see our “**Long Term**” Calling

Gal 6:2

*2 Bear one another’s **burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

“**Burdens**” = Gk word “**baros**” = *a heavy, difficult trouble* (w/ Vs.)

“burdens” - represents an **extreme difficulty** another believer *is dealing with*

We **all have burdens** to some extent –
w/ **different** *extremes of difficulty* at different times

In Psa 55 & in 1Pet 5 – we’re called to **Cast our Cares** (*Burdens*) upon God –
In **Mat 11** Jesus says to bring Him our **heavy Burdens**
in exchange for His **light Burden** . . .

But remember – as the Body of Christ – we are His **hands & feet** –
& one of the ways God *delivers us* from our heavy burdens
is thru other Saints in the church – (*anyone ever experience that?*)

So – how do we help carry one another's burdens ?

We make ourselves available for Prayer, Bible Study, Counsel,
Encouragement, and Accountability

The picture is that of a "Long-Term" walking side-by-side –
helping to carry one another's *Difficulties* – &
Restoring one another to *Usefulness*

& how important is it – *that we help carry* one another's burdens ??

look at Gal 6:2 again

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

What was the New Commandment Christ gave us ??

Love the *Lord your God* - - Love your *Neighbor*

& this definitely qualifies as loving your Neighbor

Moving on to V.3 – Paul goes back to Re-iterate a *critical point*

Gal 6:3

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

This Refers back to his 1st point in Ch 5:26 –

That we must not be conceited (*self-centered*) . . .

& he says again – ***if we think we're something – we're deceiving ourselves***

When the Bible **repeats something** in the same text – it means **LISTEN**

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one reason Christians **don't help** carry one another's burdens –
is because **we often think** we're "**something**"

& here **the Word** says - *if we think we **something** – when we're really **nothing**
then we **greatly deceive** ourselves*

If we think **we've arrived** somewhere – & are **NOT Called** to **Restore**
- or we are **NOT Called** to help carry each other's burdens . . .

Then **we have** *greatly deceived* ourselves - & **what always happens** next –
is we become **Judgmental** & **Condemning** - (*exactly like the Pharisee's*)

Continuing that thought – **V.4** says . . .

Gal 6:4

*4 But let each one **examine his own work**, and then he will have rejoicing in himself
alone, and not in another.*

Word "**Examine**" means "**To Approve After Testing**" – in other words,
Look at yourself – *test your own actions* . . .

Now - *wouldn't it be nice* if there were **a Litmus Test** in Scripture
where we could **examine** (test) our **own actions** ???? (*just kidding*)

for the **last 2-wks** we've been going thru the **Litmus test** of Gal 5 –
so we can **know whether our actions** are
the **Fruit of the Spirit** – or the **Works of the Flesh**

Have you ever **really** put your actions to this test ? –
did they come out Fruit of the Spirit (**vs. 22-23**) – or
did they come out Works of the Flesh (**vs. 19-21**)

again – Gal 6:4 says

4 But let each one **examine his own work**, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

This is a **critical test to take** – if we ever find ourselves
beginning to **judge** or **condemn** another brother/sister

Instead of judging & condemning – we are called to:

- 1) **Help carry** one another's burdens – **to Restore** one another
- 2) **not thinking** we're 'above' the same difficulty befalling us . .

& the **only person** we're to **judge** in this whole process – **IS OURSELVES !**

& **after examining** our own actions – if we find the **Fruit of the Spirit** –
then we'll have reason to **REJOICE** – in what God is doing in us alone
– **Regardless** of what is (or isn't) happening in someone else !!

So – **in that vein** of “Examining own actions” (not anyone else's) – **V.5** says

Gal 6:5

5 For each one shall bear his own **load**.

Now – this **Greek Word** for “Load” is Very **Different**
than **the word** translated “Burden” back in **V.2** . .

the word translated “**Burden**” (v.2) means an **extreme difficulty**
this word translated “**Load**” (v.5) means **anything carried at all (w/ vs)**

Paul's **continuing his thought** of NOT judging One Another –
& he says “Look, each person has to carry whatever **load** they have”

NOT in the way of difficulties (*burdens*) –
but he's referring to **NOT JUDGING** one another . . .

In other words – don't put whatever load God has given you **on them !!**
whatever **load** God has called **them** to carry – is between them & God –

you **Examine yourself** - & test whether **YOU** are walking in the Spirit –
& whether **YOU** are carrying the load God has called **you** to carry

& your **only role** in their life – is to **Restore** them - & help carry their "Burdens"

Now - Just one more thing about our **Calling to Restore** one another

If we are Walking in the Spirit - seeking to **Restore** in a spirit of gentleness –
does that mean every Christian we try to help will **BE** Restored - - - **NO**

Unfortunately – God always leaves us with our **Free Will** –
& we can choose to **stay** in **bondage to sin** our entire life -
& some that we try to help – **will do** just that . . .

but that doesn't change our **Calling** from God -

We are **Called to Restore** one another in the body - - &
We are to be **Ready to Restore** one another in the body

THIS is HOW the Bible **1st says** – to put "Walking in the Spirit" into **practice**

We are **Called to Restore** one another in a spirit of gentleness - &
We are **Called to Help** carry one another's burdens . . .

& to do so – we must 1st deal w/ our opinions of ourselves;

WE ARE to **NOT** be **Self-Centered** –
or Think too Highly of ourselves in any way

WE ARE to consider our **own Frailties**, in order to develop a **gentle spirit** –
& to protect ourselves from the same temptations

WE ARE to **judge** ONLY our **own actions** before God –
NEVER judging or **condemning** one another

Guys – our **Calling to Restore** one another *to usefulness* for God –
Is one of the **greatest blessings** of *Walking in the Spirit*

& it is **designed to happen** right here *in the church* –
as we **Restore** & **Strengthen** one another – *All for the Glory of God*

Let's Pray