

WATCH THIS VIDEO

What are you accountable for?

DISCIPLES.AWANAYM.ORG/ACCOUNTABILITY

CORE VERSES

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

Galatians 6:1-2

What does it mean to restore someone? When he says the word *restore* in verse 1, Paul is actually using a Greek medical term, *katartiz*. It refers to the process of setting a broken or fractured bone. The fracture would need to be set straight in

order to heal properly so as not cause any future damage. In using this term, Paul implies that a Christian caught in sin needs to be gently set straight in order to return their life to the health and wholeness found in Christ.

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THESE VERSES. FEEL FREE TO WRITE, DRAW, OR DESIGN IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU.

READ GALATIANS 6:1-10.

Sometimes sin catches us.

That's the idea Galatians 6:1 is describing. Every Christian understands that sin is wrong. Those who follow Jesus are on a path away from sin. But our desire to sin is powerful. And the sins that tempt us most are sneaky fast.

Romans makes it clear that sin no longer controls those who are in Christ (Romans 6:6-7). We can always tell it no. We can always walk away in the power of the Holy Spirit. But we haven't lost all of our desire to sin. We don't always run away very fast.

So in verse 1, Paul describes a person who is caught in (or by) sin. He or she has given in to temptation and now, apparently, that person feels trapped, unable to give that sin up.

How should the rest of the church respond to that person? Under the Old Testament Law, the answer was easy: Make sure that person pays the penalty for their sinful choice. In some cases, that even meant participating in the execution (John 8:3-5).

But Jesus changed everything. He established what verse 2 calls *the law of Christ*. Now Jesus-followers are not called to condemn and punish the sinner but to restore him or her with gentleness—in the love of Christ. In other words, we're told to help each other escape when one of us is caught by sin.

How should we do that?

The first implication here is that we should be willing to talk to each other about the sins that are catching us, to stop hiding our sins and hoping nobody will ever find out. Instead, we should be willing to admit it to someone (though not necessarily everyone) when we realize a sin has caught us. And those of us who are spiritual should be willing to listen and help when someone admits to us they feel trapped by sin.

We sometimes use the word *accountability* for these relationships between those trapped in sin and a mature Christian helper.

But that kind of openness doesn't happen naturally for most of us. It requires real, trusting relationships that go below the surface of hour-a-week meetings, and it requires deep humility from everyone involved.

It also requires wisdom about whom to turn to when you are stuck in sin. Not everyone is qualified to help. Paul says that job is for those who are spiritual, meaning that they are more mature, that they are walking in the Holy Spirit.

Paul also warns that the helper must be both gentle (not harshly critical or condemning) and careful not to fall into the same sinful trap as the person he or she is helping. That requires both love and self-control at the same time.

Relationships of accountability are the primary avenue God intends for Christians to find a way out of sin. He knows that we all need to receive—and sometimes give—compassion and help from each other to live as humble disciples of Jesus.

CORE CONCEPTS

God designed us to rely on one another, not just ourselves.

AUTHENTIC:

Not false or copied;
genuine; real

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS

- » WHY ARE SOME CHRISTIANS HESITANT TO ADMIT TO OTHER CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT UP IN SOME KIND OF SIN?
- » WHAT STORY OF CHRISTIAN ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT STANDS OUT TO YOU THE MOST?
- » WHILE GALATIANS 6:2 CHALLENGES BELIEVERS TO HELP CARRY EACH OTHER'S BURDENS, VERSE 5 SAYS THAT WE SHOULD EACH CARRY OUR OWN LOAD. HOW CAN THESE BOTH BE TRUE AT THE SAME TIME?
- » WRITE YOUR OWN QUESTION: