

Gal 6:1-5

Bearing one another's burdens.

1 Brethren, if a man (believer) 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. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.

Paul was addressing the church.

- Not the secular world,

Paul is addressing the brethren.

There is

- mutual love and respect
- behind the term "brethren."

Only the body of Christ can exemplify the fruit of the Spirit.

- Gal 5:24 those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh

Gal 6:1 "if" a man is overtaken in any trespass.

This is a warning to all, keep your guard up!

To be overtaken is to be taken by surprise.

Paul may have had the legalist in mind

- since they are quick to point out someone else's sin.

Paul is going to contrast the way a legalist

- would deal with a sinning brother, verses
- the way a spiritual man would deal
- with that same brother.

The legalist needs no proof,

- all they need is an accusation.

If a man is overtaken in any trespass ("fault"),

Trespass - to make an error, to do something wrong.

Never assume anything

- unless you have direct evidence of a trespass.

We have to filter what we take in, because as a believers we are to judge other believers.

Paul said to the Corinthians:

1 Cor 5:12-13

12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

NLT

1 Cor 5:12-13

12 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. 13 God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."

The back story to this passage in Corinthians is that there was a man having an incestuous relationship with his step-mom.

Paul's recommendation to the church of Corinth:

- was to remove the man from fellowship
- and deliver him to the hands of Satan
- so that he might repent
- and come back to the Lord.

But that was as far as Paul instructed any personal judgement and church discipline go.

"judgement" is derived from the word "Krino."

In the passage to the Corinthians, it means "to make one's personal evaluation on a matter."

Paul and the Corinthian church were now having to deal with an internal matter.

Paul does say that it's not our job to judge outsiders.

- it's not our job to judge them.
- That's reserved for God.

Gal 6:1b, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,

3

To restore (katartizō) has a wide range of usage. One meaning of the word is “to mend as in a net or to restore a broken bone.”

Restoration can be painful.

- That’s why it is so important
- that we do it in gentleness and with love.

Gal 3:25, If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

A person living in the Spirit still has the capacity to sin,

- but he also has the ability to resist sin.

When Christ was crucified,

- the old man (you and me) was crucified with Him,
- thus we are no longer slaves to sin.

Again, verse 1: if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.

Who are the spiritual that Paul speaks of?

To the Colossians he said:

Col 1:10

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

To the Ephesians:

Eph 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (we are His spiritual handiwork in a sense that we were created by Him)

Eph 4:1-3

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

How should restoration take place and by whom?

- By a believer tenderly and with love and compassion.

The parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10) is a good example of God’s love.

Pointing a brother’s sin out to him is loving him:

Matt 18:15

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and (the whole church, NO!) him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

In other words,

- you have won him over if he hears you.

But what happens if your brother does not listen to you?

Matt 18:16-17

16 But if he will not hear (that is, if he doesn't accept and repent), take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

This is much different from the worlds view of handling issues.

Jesus said, if a person doesn't repent,

- then you take two or three more
- to give him an opportunity to repent
- before taking the matter to the church.

It's always best to confess before getting caught!

In OT times, two or three witnesses was enough

- to send a murderer to his death.

Prior to a death sentence,

- the matter had to go before a Priest

In the NT Jesus added the step

- of reporting to the church for final hearing.

Again, taking it to others becomes gossip and gossip becomes destructive.

Prov 11:13

13 A talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Prov 26:20

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,
and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

Finally Jesus says:

But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

To the strict Jew,

- the Gentile had no chance of salvation.

He was considered an outsider and didn't belong.

The tax collector was considered a hypocrite

- since he was now collecting taxes for the Romans.

Jesus was saying, let him who refuses (to hear) be to you like the heathen and the tax collectors.

But the goal is always restoration.

Paul said:

2 Thess 3:13-15

13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (We are to warn him or exhort him as a brother)

Prayerfully, he who walked away

- will come back and will be restored to fellowship.
- Be prepared to spend a lot of time in prayer
- and be prepared to show lots of patience.

This often requires us tapping our knees to the ground.

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

1 Pet 4:8

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

- remember that the person is not merely a perpetrator of sin,
- but they've also become a victim of temptation.

Any of us can find ourself in that position should we let our guard down!

Gal 6:2-5

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

To bear is to bear patiently or to support.

Paul tells the Christians

- to bear one another's burdens.

The Pharisees were good for,

- adding to a person's burdens.

The Lord denounced the religious leaders of His day for this very thing:

Matt 23:4

4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Some of our burdens may include anything from

- unsaved loved ones,
- job stress,
- finances,
- personal loss,
- struggles with sin,
- loneliness,
- physical suffering,
- sickness,
- divorce,
- abuse,
- addictions
- or anything that has a person down.

We shouldn't have the mentality of

- "leave me alone, I'm alright."

There is nothing wrong with needing a moment to yourself, if you do need a moment to yourself, be sure to say, "I just need a moment alone," can we talk in a few minutes, or maybe later or tomorrow.

It's important that we lean on one another.

- Yes, we need to lean on the Lord
- but the Lord often puts spirit filled people
- in our life to encourage us.

When we allow others into our life who will encourage us,

- we fulfill the law of Christ in verse 2,
- to love one another

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

The scriptures list several examples of people who thought they were something only to fall short.

Rom 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

1 Cor 10:12

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Cor 3:5

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

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.

Each of us has been called to ministry in some way or another.

Am I working to honor and to please the Lord

- or am I working to be seen by others.

When Paul stood in defense before Felix in Acts 24,

- he told them that he had a hope in God
- which they also accepted
- that there will be a resurrection of the dead.

Then he said:

Acts 24:16

16 This being so, (since we have the same hope in God and in the resurrection) I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

He was examining his work before the Lord.

Solomon said in Proverbs:

Prov 27:2

2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

Every good thing we have is from the Lord.

1 Cor 4:7

7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Always remember who you are in Christ Jesus and remain humble.

Gal 6:5 For each one shall bear his own load.

Verse 2 says that we are to bear one another's burdens.

Is this a contradiction in scripture? NO!

To bear one another's burdens

- does not mean to take them from one another's hand or shoulders,
- but to help each other to carry them."

We should never tire of bearing one another's burdens.

Simon the Cyrenian carried the cross of Jesus to Calvary

- The stigma attached to a cross in those days was very real.

No doubt he stuck around after arriving at Calvary, tired and thirsty.

- Jesus was nailed to that cross after He'd already been beaten.

Simon would have heard the words from Jesus, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

He may have read the title, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Jesus made a statement that day, "Simon, I'm doing this for you." "You and you and you and all of mankind, I'm doing this for you!"

Simon became a Christian, that day or another, I don't know!

- He became an elder at Antioch
- and the father of two boys
- whom the apostle Paul appreciated very much.
- (Mark 15, Acts 13 and Romans 16)

He carried the cross,

- he bore the load for Jesus
- then Jesus turned around and said, I'll do the rest!

Jesus wants us to carry the burdens of others and He will do the rest!!!