

LifeGroup Discussion Questions  
Galatians 6:1-5  
May 3, 2020

**Overview:**

The first word in Galatians 6:1, “Brothers”, is key to understanding this passage. The Apostle Paul had a deep affection for the believers in Galatia. He used a term reserved for family when describing them. The concept of the church being like a family is somewhat foreign in today’s society. It goes against the grain of being completely independent. Paul used this term as a heartfelt description of what he thought of the Galatia church. Today it can be used as a greeting on a far more superficial level. Believers can fall into the trap of wanting to know what is going on with others, but not really be known themselves. For Paul, the church was family.

Personal sin is often embarrassing and not a topic of conversation you would bring up. For someone to be caught in sin means either the sin was blatantly obvious or the person was known by others beyond a superficial level. When a person’s sin is discovered they are to be restored gently. In the Greek the word restore has the same meaning as to place a broken bone back in its place. Although painful, this process needs to be done for the person’s benefit. A spirit of gentleness does away with judgement and piousness. This can usually be the first reaction to someone else’s sin. If your first thoughts are, “Can you believe what they did” or “I would never” then you need to reconsider your spirit of gentleness. True gentleness seeks the restoration of a fellow “family member”.

We are to bear one another’s burdens. By doing this we fulfill the law of Christ. What is this law? John 13:34 reads: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another”. We bear one another’s burdens by loving them with the same love that Christ has loved us. Bearing a burden with someone doesn’t mean you absorb the entire burden yourself. You are sharing the weight (mental, emotional, spiritual) of what they are dealing with.

Imagine you are trying to carry a 150 lb weight. This can be overwhelming to do by yourself. If someone offers to help, then both of you split the 150 lbs. This leaves each one carrying 75 lbs a piece. This is much more doable. You are now bearing the weight between the two of you. One of the first steps to bearing a burden is to listen. In order for someone to want to share what they are dealing with means there is a relationship. This idea of relationship goes back to Paul referring to the church as brothers. Before you can help bear someone’s burden

you need to understand what the other person is going through. Listening without judgement and a spirit of gentleness will help you with this.

Paul reminds each of us not to boast for everyone has a load to carry. There are sins we can deal with on our own and sins where we need the help of others. Whether we are bearing the load ourselves or sharing the burden with others the ultimate goal is to become more like Christ. Ephesians 4:22-24 reads: “<sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The battle between your former self and new self will forever be present this side of heaven. It is with the help of God’s people, His word, and His Spirit that we become more and more like Him.

### **Bible Study: Various**

1. One of the greatest tools of Satan is isolation. Why is the need for family-like Christian community so important for every believer?
2. How would you respond if someone came and confessed a sin to you they need help in overcoming?
3. The Pharisees tried to regulate sin out of their lives. They created a religion full of rules. Why does it take more than following a list of rules to grow in your relationship with Christ?
4. Are people willing to let BOTH their strengths and weaknesses be known in the church? Why or why not?
5. Discuss some ways you can restore someone with a spirit of gentleness.
6. How do you guard against having a judgmental and pious spirit toward others?
7. How well are you doing at carrying your own load? When does a load become a burden you need to share with others? Do you have people ready to share with if this were to happen?