

RESTORATION WORK

Two couples I knew were rocked by affairs in our church family in Texas. Both couples eventually tried to restore their marriage. 1st couple – worked at it for a year but they could never fully restore. There were many reasons but one of the main ones - the guy (the offended) kept holding her sin over her head. He condemned (was harsh), said if she would really change – then he might love and be gentle with her. Never happened. 2nd couple – worked at it for two years. Hard, rocky, up and down – but it miraculously was restored. They ended up in a better place than where they began. Why? She (the offended) offered grace (gentleness) and it allowed the offender to see and taste God's grace in such a way – that he was transformed by the gospel.

Confronting sin – restoring sin is hard but beautiful calling God has given to his family. And just bc we do it God's way doesn't mean it will work. **But it cannot** work a part from God's design. His design has 2 parts: 1) Joining Him, 2) walking in the gentleness of the Holy Spirit.

As God calls us to His restoring work – we must go in the gentleness of the Spirit.

01. We are called to join God in His restoring work.

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GALATIANS 6:1-5 (ESV) 1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

- **We are called** ^(should) **to join God in His restoring work for 1) the sinner and 2) the body.**
Caught in any transgression (sin, rebellion). *Caught:* to be surprised & caught by a deadly trap. (pic- animal in trap)
1) You drive up on a lady/man stuck, caught in wrecked car – you help. Why? WHY NOT!!! You are a part of the human race – you just do. You are a part of God's family if in Christ – you help those caught in sin.
2) Imagine a large family where no discipline existed. The young & vulnerable in the family would get hurt & most likely be abused. No unity, no love, just chaos and hurt. This is the body of Christ without every member of the family participating in restoring those caught in sin. One vital thing to remember in this restoration work ..

- **It is His work – not ours.**

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (ESV) And I am sure of this, that *he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion* at the day of Jesus Christ. *When this is our work: we go in **our** wisdom, **our** time, our way, **our** words, and the hope **we** can convince someone to turn. **But** – when I know this is about soul work in another – I know this is God's work. He alone can do soul-restoring work. **This means - wow, we get to be a part and we have to go in the Spirit.***

GALATIANS 6:1-5 (ESV) 1 ... you who are spiritual *(not uber mature, in the Spirit)* should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

02. We must go in the gentleness of the Spirit.

- **What is NOT restoring – “in the gentleness of the Spirit”?**
*(Paul Tripp visual) - You know very quickly that your local developer isn't interested in restoring a broken-down building when they send a wrecking ball to the property site. How does that relate to this passage? All Christians are broken people that God **IS in the midst of restoring**. God has ordained for broken people to walk with other broken people to join God in His restoring work. You will be sinned against by fellow believers. You will walk with Christians in ministry who have major moral deficiencies. You will live with family members who love Jesus yet still fail to live in accordance with God's ways. And, lest you forget, you & I are broken people too! When we don't restore in the gentleness of the Spirit, **we are not restoring - just confronting** w brok rel that is condemning.*

#6- (I go and) (You must) (You might get)

Broken Religion Confrontation = condemn > repent > gentleness

- **Why do we often try and just confront like a wrecking ball – with condemnation?**

- I believe God is condemning *(angry with)* my current sin.
- I don't functionally believe Jesus was condemned for all my sin.
- So, I carry the weight of my sin. **backpack of WEIGHTS – put it on**
- So, YOU must carry the weight of your sin and some of mine. **Give 2nd bpack to Steve w my weight in it**

#7- (I am) (I must) (I might get) (I see God as)

BR = condemned > repent > gentleness > cruel, unkind, vindictive

- **How do we walk in the gentleness of the Spirit?**

Instead of being a wrecking ball of confrontation and condemnation - God is asking us to use the small tools of restoration to slowly, painfully, and gracefully reveal to another where they need to turn and be restored.

Submit to the Spirit - Prayer: God I submit to Your ways, Your power, Your covenant love

In submitting, we are believing God, who is gentle and just, will tenderly but surely turn back and restore his son and daughter. We are not simply asking God to let us deal gently with people. No – much, much more.

Submit to the Spirit-Prayer: Help me believe the gospel that declares You are not cruel, unkind, vindictive.

#9

(I am)

(I must)

(I might get)

(I see God as)

Br Rel = condemned > repent > gentleness > cruel, unkind, vindictive

GALATIANS 6:1-3 (ESV) 1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

The truth of the gospel is in this passage – calling us to believe & see how God has moved in love and justice so He can gently restore us to Himself. 1) **Jesus was humble.** (3) He was something and became nothing.

2) **In love - Jesus bore the unbearable burden of my sin.** (2) **John 13:34** *He didn't just bear it he was crushed under God's justice. At the cross, an exchange happened: our sin for Christ's righteousness. Now I'm pleasing to God.* 3) **This allows God to deal gently with me.** (1) **Power of the Spirit's gentleness** **Titus 3:4-5**

Jesus was condemned (for my sin). So I get the gentleness of God. Which leads to repentance.

If God came and condemned us – **we could only be punished!**

1) This is the **GOSPEL** – and it is true of our rescue to God.

2) This **GOSPEL** is also true of our restoration on a daily basis as a son or daughter of God caught in sin.

BC Jesus was condemned – Spirit comes in gentleness calling us back – his gentleness reminds us – I AM pleasing, LOVED – we return to God. **There is POWER to restore is the gentleness of the Spirit!**

(Jesus was)

(I get)

(I can)

(God is truly)

Gospel = condemned > gentleness > repent > merciful and just, gentle and truthful

SO NOW – I can go to others offering them the power of the gentleness of God's Spirit that I am given.

Going in a spirit of gentleness means we give grace (the gospel) and not broken religion.

(bc Jesus was) (I go in Spirit's)

(you can)

(I reveal God as)

Gospel Restoration = condemned > gentleness > repent > merciful and just, gentle and truthful

• What will it look like to restore in the gentleness of the Spirit?

GALATIANS 6:1 (ESV) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him

1. **Community:** *Those closest, who can walk in the Spirit, should go first. This is the power and beauty of gospel community.*

- **In the Family** – *who should go to restore – little brother who is immature and not close to older brother. No the mom or dad goes. Maturity and they should be the closest to the 12 yr old son.*

- **In the body of Christ** – *who should go to restore. The closest believer (only believers can walk in the Spirit) should go first. This is the power and beauty of having committed covenant members in a body.*

- **We practice the body restoring the body or church discipline** and truth is 90% of the church discipline that takes place here at the Summit is the **I** going to the **I** in love – to restore. The other 10% happens as the scripture says in Matt 18 – when those first approaches from a bro/sis are not received.

AGAIN - Imagine a family where no discipline existed – zero correction. The young and vulnerable in the family would get hurt and most likely abused. No unity – no love – just chaos and hurt. This is the body of Christ without restoration or discipline. Membership is vital to this process. You have to know who is committed to being a part of the family for this is where restoration / discipline occurs.

Membership Class / Part I, II - April 23, 30 / 9 am, Sundays – join us in God's rest. work!

GALATIANS 6:1 (ESV) ... Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

2. **Empathy:** *We speak and act with kindness-because we understand the weakness of our old nature.*

GALATIANS 6:3 (ESV) For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

3. **Humility:** *We speak and act with meekness - because we are broken people that are daily being restored by the gentleness of the Spirit.*

GALATIANS 6:2 (ESV) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (John 13:34)

4. **Love:**

- Others will hear the truth of their sin but they will know they are being cared for & not condemned with that truth. *Gentleness does not mean - we do not confront sin. This is love: to warn & call to turn!*
*Sin causes pain and brings destruction. Restoring sin hurts as well. Like rotten teeth, no amount of small tools makes a dental restoration painless. It hurts – but it restores us to health and the ability for our teeth to be used as they were intended. **1 goal of restoring in the gentleness of the Spirit – is to restore function.***
- Others will hear the truth of God's covenant love that says – "I am still pleased with you because Jesus has taken all your guilt and shame. So come to me and let me restore you."
Gentleness does mean we do not condemn, pronounce, punishment, heap shame.
***BR moves us from fear:** The wrecking ball says - You are bad. If you do not stop you will not be loved. If you stop doing that – God **MIGHT** receive you!*
***The gospel moves us from love:** We use small tools of restoration to slowly, painfully, and gracefully walk with others to restoration. "Jesus was condemned for you. He took your shame and guilt. See how your sin wounds you, others, and God's name. Turn to the wonderful, loving God who has taken those wounds for us." The second goal of restoration is to restore them to seeing and turning to Jesus as the greatest – ultimate joy!*

If we are to join God in His restoring work – we must go in the gentleness of the Spirit.

Repent

- Confess: God I have seen you as cruel, unkind, vindictive, angry with me.
- Believe: The Cross shows Jesus condemned, gentleness offered, so I can repent.
- Turn: To God who is gentle and just, merciful and true.

Pray – for the gentleness of the Spirit for a believer who is caught in sin.

BLESSING – MATTHEW 11:28-29 (ESV)