

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Brethren, if a man is taken in any trespass, you who are spiritual
REVIEW
- II) Paul has been encouraging the Church to love and service
In Gal 5:13 he said, through God's Spirit and love, we should **serve one** another
FACT
- III) Loving one another and **humbly** serving one another is **evidence** of being saved
It reveals that we know Jesus and are becoming **more like Him**
DEVELOP
- IV) One of the lessons Jesus taught His men was the lesson of **true greatness**
He taught them that greatness in His kingdom is founded on sacrificial service
Lu 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or **he who serves**? Is it not
he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the **One who serves**.
GREATNESS IS HUMBLE SERVICE
- V) Loving and serving others was a difficult lesson for His men to learn
Their natural impulse was to place themselves first, seeking positions of power
EXAMPLE
- VI) The apostles James and John seem to have had an ambition for power
- VII) On one occasion their mother asked Jesus to give them positions of authority
Mt 20:21 (She asked Jesus) Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on
Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom!
- VIII) This was a request that Jesus refused to grant
God gives honor to those whom He decides to honor
- IX) Their ambition was fleshly and not proper: **it was selfish ambition**
Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in humility count
others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own
interests, but also to the interests of others.
REMEMBER
- X) The kingdom of God was not modelled after the kingdoms of the world
Mt 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the
Gentiles **lord it** over them, and their high officials **exercise authority** over them. **Not so**
with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and
whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be
served, **but to serve**, and to **give His life** as a ransom for many."

- I) The kingdom of God has been rightly called **an upside-down kingdom**
God has designed the church to serve others, in love
Serving others is evidence to the world that we know and love Him
- II) Paul not only taught this, but he also modelled it
It was shown in the way he conducted his own life
1 Co 9:19 Though I am free from all men, yet I have made myself **servant to all** that I might gain the more.

APPLICATION

- III) Instead of caring only for ourselves, as Christians, we learn to care about others
We refuse to take advantage of one another but instead, we care for one another
Ro 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- IV) **How is made possible?** By dying to self and walking in the Spirit (Gal 5:16)
- V) God's Spirit gives us power to overcome **our great enemy: our own flesh**
By learning to walk in the Spirit, we will not give in to the sinful impulses we have
- VI) This does not come by obeying rules and regulations, but by the Spirit **in you**
This is what is made possible when you receive Jesus: God lives in you
Ezek 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put My Spirit in you** and **move you** to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws
- VII) Instead of the works of the flesh, you will produce the fruit of the Spirit: **love**
You will not be conceited, combative or envious of your brothers or sisters
- VIII) **Instead**, you will strive to **keep the unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace
Ro 12:18 If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you**, live at peace with everyone.

WITH THAT SAID

- IX) Though we desire to walk in the Spirit we can still be overtaken by a trespass
We are still imperfect and obviously still sin
Eccl 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins

QUESTION

- X) What is to be done when this happens?
This is what Paul is dealing with in this chapter
What happens when a believer stumbles and sins: **what are we to do?**

- I) V1 If a man is **overtaken** in any **trespass**, you who are spiritual restore such a one
Since the flesh wars against the Spirit, what should be done **when someone falls**
REMEMBER
- II) We are still imperfect and are still prone to failure
Our spirit may be willing, but our flesh can still be weak!
Ro 7:19 I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—**this I keep on doing.**
- III) What should be done when someone is **overtaken** in any trespass?
Overtaken: To stumble as the result of letting your guard down
Trespass: A slip or lapse that is not a willful sin
- IV) When a believer stumbles into sin, **they should be helped**
- V) This is a picture of someone who **doesn't realize** the full extent of what he has done
He has walked down a path that led to him sinning without **being aware of it**
FACT
- VI) It is possible to enter into sin slowly, not being fully aware of what is happening
Peter did this, even though he had been forewarned by Jesus
- VII) Jesus had directly informed him, but he didn't listen to what Jesus was saying
Mt 26:31-35 Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, **I will never be made to stumble.**" Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.
- VIII) What happened later? Peter denied knowing Jesus, three times
He did not intentionally do this, but later that evening he denied knowing Jesus
KEY
- IX) He did not plan on to deny Jesus, **but he did three times**
After denying Him the third time, Jesus was walked past Peter
Lu 22:61-62 the Lord turned and looked (**fixed His gaze**) at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and **wept bitterly**

- I) Peter did not intentionally deny Jesus, and **in fact said** he would **die for him**
EVEN SO, HE DENIED HIM
- II) Peter did exactly what his flesh demanded, and he chose **self-preservation**
Self-preservation is our number one instinct!
Job 2:4 (This is what Satan told God when discussing Job) Skin for skin...A man will give all he has **for his own life**
- III) Before he realized the full extent of what he did, he had already committed it
He **denied** Jesus three time and wasn't aware of what he was doing **as he did it**
- IV) Peter was overtaken in a trespass, and others can be also
QUESTION
- V) What is the church to do when something like this happens?
How do you deal with someone who has fallen into sin?
- VI) We can stumble without even realizing it: How is this to be handled?
PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS
- VII) V1 You who are **spiritual** restore such a one
The **spiritually mature** are involved in restoring the weaker brothers and sisters
- VIII) This speaks of those who are led by the Spirit
It speaks of those who are spiritually mature encourage the weak
- IX) This speaks of the ones who know God's word and are mature in their faith
They know the word, have a proven character, experience, and are Spirit filled
- X) The spiritually mature have the ministry of encouraging those who have fallen
Ro 15:1 **We who are strong** ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves
- XI) The spiritually mature have a heart to restore those who have fallen and are hurting
Restore: The word used in Mk 1:19 of mending nets; to repair thoroughly
It was also used to mend a broken bone, or to put a dislocated limb back in place
HOW DO WE MEND A BROKEN CHRISTIAN?
- XII) By helping them to see that they have entered into sin, and not only a mistake
Unless they see it **as sin**, they won't confess, repent, forsake, or receive forgiveness

- I) If they're believers, God's word convicts and they can respond with repentance
This is more possible when the one bringing the sin to their attention is mature
- II) If the person confronting is still carnal, the correction may be rejected
This is why Paul says **You who are spiritual**
Ro 15:14 I am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another
- III) V1 What is the proper attitude when correcting others? In a spirit of gentleness
Gentleness: Mildness, meekness, love and compassion
Correction is not administered in self-righteous condemnation
- IV) Correction is brought in the same way you would set a broken bone!
HOW CAN WE HAVE THIS GENTLENESS OF SPIRIT?
- V) Consider yourself lest you also be tempted
- VI) You are made of the same stuff that they are! You can fall too, so have humility
Mt 7:3-5 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
- VII) Be charitable to someone who has fallen because you can also fall
- VIII) V2 Bear one another's burdens and **so fulfill the Law of Christ** (Principle of love)
Have sympathy with one another and help one another in your weakness
Ro 15:1 We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves
KEY
- IX) This does not mean we ignore one another's sins and tolerate sin in the Body!
When we do this, sin eventually permeates the entire church
- X) What it does mean is lock arms and **shoulder one another's burdens**
There are some burdens that I just can't carry alone: we need one another
Pr 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity

- I) Accountability is of utmost necessity: The fellowship of believers is so important
- II) This is what makes the church different than all other organizations
We are in a family of believers and are to care for one another
- III) We serve one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, care for one another, pray for one another, forgive one another, speak the truth to one another, exhort one another and bear one another's burdens because **we love one another**
- IV) V2 This is what fulfills the law of Christ
What is the law of Christ?
Jn 15:12-13 This is **My commandment**, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this than to lay down one's life for his friends
1 Jn 3:23 this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another **as He commanded us.**
- V) V3 If anyone thinks (considers) himself to be something when he is nothing
Humility is required if someone is trying to bring correction
- VI) We must always realize who we are: sinners in need of grace
Ro 12:3 Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you
- VII) This is what protects us if we are ever having to restore someone to God
We understand that we too can fall
- VIII) V3 when we don't do this we can deceive ourselves into thinking we are better
Jesus gave us insight into this
Lu 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

- I) How can we be gentle with others: Realize that we are insignificant, too!
We are also sinners, saved by God's grace
- II) V4 let each one **examine his own work** and then he will have rejoicing in himself
Before you correct anyone examine you own life and be humbled by its lack of fruit
- III) We **judge our own work**, not by comparing it to others, but by a higher standard
When we do so we see that we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- IV) This honest evaluation provides the basis of humility that we should exercise
It provides a fair estimate of our own character
Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- V) V5 For each one shall bear his own load
Ultimate responsibility for our own lives will rest with us
- VI) We will answer to God for our own actions
We will not be able to shift responsibility on to someone else
2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- VII) This is a good reason to keep a close watch on our own lives!
- VIII) In closing, I pointed out how Peter had denied the Lord three times
Even though he had done this, Jesus showed us how to gently restore
- IX) After Jesus' resurrection, Peter and six of the apostles were together
Peter said I am going fishing, and the others joined him
- X) While out in the water, Jesus stood on the shore and asked if they had any food
They said no, so He told them to cast the net on the right side of the boat
When they did this, the net was so filled with fish they couldn't draw in the net
- XI) Jesus prepared a meal for them, and they sat together at the fire and ate
It was then that Jesus broke the silence, and it was there He taught us restoration

- I) As Peter sat quietly at the fire, it would have reminded him of his denial
It was when Peter warmed himself at a fire that he had that he betrayed Jesus
Three times he denied knowing Jesus
- II) Sitting at that fire, Peter must have been thinking of what He had done
It would have been something he could not forget: **it would have haunted him**
Ps 51:3 I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me
- III) Peter would have been suffering over his denial of Jesus
It was a wound that needed to be healed, and Jesus would lovingly do this
Ps 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saved such as
have a contrite spirit (whose spirit has been broken and crushed)
- IV) Jesus was quietly sitting and the meal was eaten in a tense silence
They are alone on the shore and Jesus broke the silence by speaking to Peter
WHAT DID HE SAY
- V) Jn 21:15 Jesus said Simon son of Jonah, **do you love Me** more than these?
He was likely asking: Do you love Me more than **these other men** love Me
These words, though spoken with gentleness, must have torn Simon's heart
WHY?
- VI) It was only three weeks since he insisted he loved Jesus **more than them all**
Mt 26:33 Peter answered and said to Him, **Even if all** are made to stumble
because of You, I will never be made to stumble
Mt 26:36 Peter said to Him, **Even if I have to die with You**, I will not deny You! And
so said all the disciples
- VII) **Three times** Jesus asks Simon Peter if he loves Him
Three times Simon Peter says Yes Lord, You know that I love You
- VIII) The first two times Jesus asked him this question He called him Simon Peter
The third time the question is asked, John refers to him only by the name Peter
- IX) This may be because the question cut deeply into Peter's soul
The third time Jesus asks this question, Simon Peter was deeply grieved
Jesus, I can't say I love you more than these others do
- X) I can only say, for certain, that deep within me I love you

- I) How many times had Peter denied Jesus? How many times did He ask of his love?
Peter, you are broken by what you have done, but I have forgiven you
You can now feed and tend My sheep: You are a humble and broken man
- II) Peter needed to know he was loved, and he needed to hear it from Jesus
Jesus' word of love to him was a command to go back to ministering, not fishing
- III) Though his denial was great, Jesus' forgiveness was greater still
Ps 51:12-13 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your
generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be
converted to You.
- IV) This is how we are with those who have failed
How do you treat someone who has failed and has come back to church
Do you encourage them and love them and welcome them back
- V) WELCOME HOME