

6/28/98

**The Fruit Of The Spirit In Action**  
**Galatians 6:1-5**

Paul has identified for us that those who walk in the Spirit are those individuals:

1. Who belong to Christ. 4:7
2. Who are involved in the process of crucifying or denying the old sin nature. 5:24
3. Who practice living and walking in the Spirit, not in the flesh. 5:18, 25

This identifies those who are walking in God's agape love and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

Therefore Paul gives some practical examples of what it is to walk in God's love. 6:1-5

We want to look at three ways love is manifested when a person is walking in God's agape love.

- I. Love reaches out to restore a sinning brother. vs. 1
  - II. Love responds to meet needs. vs. 2-3
  - III. Love recognizes God's sufficiency. vs. 4-5
- I. Love reaches out to restore a sinning brother. vs. 1**

**A.** The person Paul is addressing is the believer. vs. 1a

1. The word he uses is the word brethren.
  - a. The word brethren "adelphos" literally means from the same womb.
  - b. Those who had experienced God's unconditional love full of compassion and grace regarding their sins. In. 1:12
  - c. The word appears eleven times in the letter. 1:2, 11, 19, 3:15, 4:12, 28, 31, 5:11, 13, 6:1, 18

**B.** The particular example Paul used was that of a Christians falling into sin. vs. 1b

\* "If a man is overtaken in any trespass".

1. This implies that a believer is not perfect or sinless after his or her new birth.
2. The word overtaken "problambano" means beforehand, to come upon a person without warning, to be taken unaware.
  - a. The Greek denotes surprise in the very act.
  - b. The idea being of being caught or seized by sin as the person was walking and was ensnared by the tempter.
3. The word trespass "paraptoma" means a falling aside or lapse or deviate from truth, not deliberate.

- a. This does not mean he or she is not responsible but only that they failed out of weakness and suddenness.
  - b. This reveals that they are still sinners, they miss the mark due to ongoing sin nature until death.
- \* Paul used a different word earlier in the letter for willful and deliberate sin, transgressions “parabasis”. 3:19

C. The personal responsibility falls on those who are spiritual. vs. 1c

- \* “You who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness”.
1. The counsel of Paul is of the greatest value because he is doing exactly what he is telling them to do.
    - a. They had been overtaken in the trespass of “circumcision” by the Judeaizers.
    - b. The apostle was attempting to restore them in the spirit of gentleness.
    - c. The counsel we give may be biblical but if we are not doers of it, we are hypocrites.
  2. The reference to those who are spiritual “pneumatikos”, those who are dominated by the Holy Spirit.
    - a. Those who are being led of the Spirit. 5:18

- b. Those who have and are crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires. 5:24
  - c. Those who are living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit. 5:25
  - d. Those who are sowing to the spirit. 6:8b
    - \* Those who are those who are mature in Christ, those who are able to distinguish between hate for sin of any kind and compassion for the one who is caught by sin.
3. The goal and motive is to restore, not to castigate or beat down.
    - a. The word restore “katartidzo” means to reset a dislocated bone or joint.
    - b. The word is used of mending nets in Matt. 4:21, Mk. 1:29
    - c. Therefore there is a two-fold purpose in restoration.
      - 1) To point out the error and deception and bring them back in line with truth of the Spirit.
      - 2) To restore the person back to fellowship with God and the church body.
        - \* Remember the word “walk” mentioned previously means to draw up in line with the truth of the Spirit of God. 5:25

4. The right spirit is required, a spirit of gentleness.
    - a. The spirit of gentleness “praotes” means meekness, power under control rather than striking out.
    - b. The virtue is the seventh of the fruit of the Spirit. 5:23
    - c. It is the work of God's Spirit in and through the person, not one's own ability.
- D.** The perspective that is to help each person to restore in gentleness is personal vulnerability. vs. 1d
- \* “Considering yourself lest you also be tempted”.
1. Each individual is to recognize his or her own potential weakness in being tempted by sin as well as possible failure at one time or another.
    - a. The word considering “skopeo” means to look at attentively or constantly to oneself.
    - b. The context being so as to see your own vulnerability to sin as well as how you would want someone to confront you. 1Cor. 10:12
  2. Each person who is always looking attentively at others rather than self, fails to recognize their own vulnerability.

- a. Rather than there being empathy and compassion there will be disgust with the failure of the person.
- b. Rather than focusing on restoration through genuine repentance, they only have castigation in mind.
- c. Rather than acting like their Lord and Master, they act as Lords and Masters.
- d. Rather than acting in righteous love they act in self-righteous anger.
- e. Rather than seeing themselves as able to fail in the very same area if it weren't for the grace of God, they are convinced they could never do such a thing.

### **Illustration**

If you saw a traffic accident and people hurt you would immediately go to help, not to criticize them and tell them how stupid they were for having the accident.

### **Application**

1. Love that restores from sin is confidential and caring.
  - a. Love will cover a multitude of sins. 1Pet. 4:8b  
\* He is quoting Proverbs, “Love covers all sins”. Prov. 10:12b

- b. Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 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. Ja. 5:19-20
- c. Love imparts the very provisions received to be cleansed from present sin. 2 Cor. 11:28, I Jn. 2:1
  - \* **Freely** you have received, **freely** give. Matt. 10:8e-f
- 2. Love that restores seeks for godly repentance and to impart absolute forgiveness. 2 Cor. 2:6-11
  - a. Not some emotional superficial remorse that is insincere and only concerned with the consequences and not the failure.
  - b. Lest there be over sorrow of the one who sinned and Satan condemn him or bitterness and resentment be built up by either person, falling into Satan's devices.
- 3. Love recognizes believers will fail even severely at times.
  - a. Noah got drunk after the flood. Gen. 9:21
  - b. Abraham lied about his wife to Pharaoh. Gen. 12:13
  - c. David committed adultery with Bathsheba. 2 Sam. 11
  - d. The Scriptures are very clear as to how to handle a situation when someone sins against us in the gospel of Matthew. Matt. 18:15-20

- e. Peter played the hypocrite and stumbled others at Antioch. Gal. 2:11-14

*Love reaches out to restore a sinning brother!*

## II. Love responds to meet needs. vs. 2-3

- A. The apostle Paul says that God's love is people centered like Jesus. vs. 2a-b
  - 1. The word bear "bastazo" means to bear what is burdensome. vs. 2a
    - a. It is in the present imperative, it keeps on bearing willingly and sympathetically.
    - b. The word is used of carrying a water pot. Mk. 14:13
    - c. The word is used of carrying a coffin. Lk. 7:14
    - d. The word is used of Jesus bearing the cross. Jn. 19:17
  - 2. The command is specific one another's burdens. vs. 2a
    - a. The phrase "one another's" declares the mutual responsibility, it is reciprocal, not one sided.
    - b. The word burdens "bare" identify the situation as a crushing load which one is unable to bear alone.
      - \* This does not imply that we tolerate one another's sins under the guise of love but in view of a genuine

- failure and a loving attempt to restore the person!
- c.** The practice is consistent with the character of the Holy Spirit.
- 1) The believer is to come along side and help those who can not bear this heavy situation.
  - 2) This is exactly what the Holy Spirit is described as doing according to Jesus by calling Him “the comforter”, one who comes along side to help you do the work not do it for you. Jn. 14:16
  - 3) So we who are Christians come along side as we are led, living and walking in the Spirit to help those weak brothers and sisters out of love.
- 3.** The act of relieving those down trodden, bruised and broken by sin fulfills the law of Christ. vs. 2b
- a.** The word fulfill “pleroo” means to satisfy the requirement.
    - 1) How is it done by yielding and obeying to God’s enablement.
    - 2) Who is doing it, the Holy Spirit yet I am the vessel.
  - b.** As Christ who did not please Himself, we who are strong are to bear the scruples of the weak and not please ourselves. Rom. 15:1

\* This is what James calls the “Royal law”, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Ja. 2:8

- B.** The apostle gives a warning about not yielding to God’s love. vs. 3
1. He reveals the potential of pride that is ever present in all believers, “If anyone thinks himself to be something”. vs. 3a  
\* Such thinking is based on pride and love for self!
  2. He reveals the true state of every man and woman when thinking they are something, “He is nothing”. vs. 3b  
\* Robertson says he is really a zero.
  3. He reveals the outcome of such thinking, “He deceives himself”. vs. 3c
    - a.** He thinks he is above helping others.
    - b.** He thinks he is beyond the failure.
    - c.** He thinks he is better than others.
    - d.** He thinks this because he is comparing himself to others, rather than Christ.
    - e.** Self deception is an overestimation of oneself.

### **Illustration**

On "Totally Hidden Video" a brother and sister were walking down the sidewalk and the brother seeing that his younger sister would not be able to step over the big crevasse laid down to bridge the

gap in the sidewalk so that his sister could walk across on him.

### **Application**

1. Whenever we think ourselves more spiritual than others, we actually give evidence that we are not but rather carnal and full of self-love.
  - a. We are to think soberly about ourselves according to the measure of faith imparted to us from God. Rom. 12:3, 10,
  - b. What do we have that we have not received and if we have received it, what are we boasting about? I Cor. 4:7
  - c. What deceptions takes place when we forget what James tells us, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.” Ja. 1:22-26.  
\* Pride goes before destruction. Prov. 16:18

2. Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.” Jn. 13:34-35
3. Love meets needs on a very practical level.
  - a. Read the many one another's in Scripture.
  - b. It could be as simple as taking care of someone's kids when needed.
  - c. Providing a ride, cleaning one's house when laid up.
  - d. Buying some groceries, providing some money, etc.  
\* Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. Matt. 24:45

*Love responds to meet needs!*

### **III. Love recognizes God’s sufficiency. vs. 4-5**

- A. The believer walking in love trusts God to examine his work. vs. 4a
  1. The command implies the ability to hear God’s voice trusting His sufficiency to reveal one’s motive of the heart.
    - a. Love is the only thing God honors as the motive for anything done.
    - b. Love is the motive for which all believers will be rewarded for or suffer the loss of reward. 1Cor. 4:5
  2. The word “but” contrast the previous verse.

- a. Rather than being proud and thinking of oneself more highly than he should, he asks God to search his heart and he is open to being convicted. Ps. 139: 23-24
  - b. The attitude is one of humility as his Lord.
3. The word examine “dokimazo” means to scrutinize see in order to test if it is genuine or false.
- a. The word is in the imperative, a continuous process.
  - b. The word is used for testing metals.
4. The command to examine one’s own work is regarding what God has called a person to do.
- a. God does not call every person to do the same thing.
  - b. God does not impart the same gifts to every person.
- B.** The believer walking in love rejoices not in another's failure but in what God is doing in him and through him. vs. 4b
- 1. He rejoices having examined himself as to his obedience to what the Lord would have him or her do.
  - 2. He rejoices in what God is doing in and through him out of love for God.

- 3. He rejoices in that whatever was done, knowing that it was done out of God’s love for his fellowman.
  - 4. The word rejoicing “kauchema” means to glory or boast in whatever is done.
    - a. The word in the negative is the evidence of pride and self love.
    - b. The word in the positive as in our text is evidence of a proper perspective that it is God doing the work.
- C.** The believer walking in love will depend on the Lord for carrying his own cross and follow Jesus. vs. 5
- 1. Each one is able to carry their load.
    - a. The word “shall” implies personal responsibility that is not to be shirked.
    - b. The word load “phortion” is an old word for a ship's cargo. Acts 27:10
    - c. The word is used of a pack carried by a porter or soldier on the march.
    - d. The word is also used in Scripture of Jesus' burden that is light. Matt. 11:30
  - 2. The burden in verse two is a crushing load we are to help one another with, the load in verse five is each Christian's responsible load in life.
    - a. No one can bear our own load nor should they.
    - b. Our own load is give to us in order to reveal the sinful imperfections in our

lives, to refine each and transform us into the image of Jesus Christ.

### **Illustration**

A marriage that is walking in love is never perfect and will experience many failure of one another but if it is always under self-examination and motivated by God's love, it will be sound, healthy and will blossom abundantly in the love of God!

### **Application**

1. At the Bema Seat of Christ we will be rewarded for our motives, not our works. I Cor. 3:11-15
  - a. At the Bema Seat of Christ I will be rewarded how I ran my course. Phil. 3:12-16
  - b. At the Bema Seat of Christ each of us will know what we did not accomplish in the will of God. Eph. 2:10
    - \* But there will not be tears, regrets of depression for we will be just like Jesus Christ!
2. Paul says who is sufficient for these things, only God. 2Cor. 3:5
3. Though the outward man is perishing the new man is be renewed day by day, therefore we do not look at the things that are seen but at the thing that are not seen 2Cor. 4:16-18
4. The person who compares himself to another has the wrong measuring stick which is Christ and is giving evidence that he or she is not wise. 2Cor. 10:12-18

*Love recognizes God's sufficiency!*

### **Conclusion**

The love of God manifests itself in these three ways when a person is walking in God's love.

- I. Love reaches out to a sinning brother!
- II. Love responds to meet needs!
- III. Love recognizes God's sufficiency!