

The Sermon

Welcome

Good morning!

My Name is Pastor Jonathan

And I am so grateful that each of you are here today.

Everyone is welcome at Harvey!

Opening Illustration

Now I have moved a LOT in my life.

And it's a been running joke in our house...

During many of our moves, Natalie has been pregnant...so she just got to tell me where to put things.

And a few of the times we moved, I moved almost our entire house by myself.

So load by load, with the help of a dolly, I'd load up a trailer with boxes, the washer and dryer, the mattresses...

And for a little while, we had a piano...

And the wheels on that piano didn't work...

So it never failed, on the moves I was doing by myself, I'd always get the idea in my head thatthat I could figure it out by myself...

Because I didn't want to bother other people...for just another move...

- I didn't want to be a burden.

- I didn't want to be the one who NEEDED something.

So I'd try to move that Piano by myself...and I'd end up getting in a bind...

- I'd get it caught on a doorway, or caught halfway to the trailer...

- And even one time, I had the thing fall on my foot...and limped around for a week

And here's what I found out:

- A piano does not care how strong you think you are.

- That piano was simply too heavy for one man to move...

So every time...I had to do the thing I didn't want to do.
I HAD TO CALL SOMEBODY.

Galatians 6:1-5 | Restoration, Not Cancellation

And do you know what happened?

- They came.
- They showed up

And then they made fun of me for not calling them sooner.

And with another set of hands, that piano got put in the trailer...

And everytime after I called for help...

- I'd always think....
- **Why was that so hard for me to call someone?**
- Why is it that I would rather hurt myself... than give someone a call...with a heavy burden...

Transition

And that's **EXACTLY** what our text is dealing with this morning...

- Because Paul is writing to a church...
- And he is going to tell them that there are things in this life that you were never designed to carry by yourself.

In fact, our BIG IDEA FOR TODAY IS THIS:

Big Idea

We Carry Each Other's Burdens Now, Because Christ Already Carried What We Could Never Carry

Transition

So, if you have your Bibles, take them out and turn to the book of **Galatians**, and we're going to be in **Chapter 6, vs. 1-5** today.

But before we begin in vs. 1,

I want us to really quickly look back at the verse right before this in Chapter 5 vs. 26.

I. How Christians Should Not Treat One Another (Galatians 5:26)

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

AND Last week, we saw that we are Free in Christ, but not Free to walk in sin, but free to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 6:1-5 | Restoration, Not Cancellation

And Paul's whole point was that we should not use our freedom to satisfy our sinful selves, but to serve one another through love.

And **vs. 26** was a verse that looked back to **vs. 15...**

But this verse also looks forward to **Chapter 6**.

Paul is essentially saying, since we are free in Christ, to serve one another through love; our Christian relationships should not be those that are conceited, provoking, or of envy...but rather relationships of serving one another through love.

Therefore, Paul tells us **FIRST...HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT TREAT ONE ANOTHER!**

But rather, like we're going to see in **Galatians 6, HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD TREAT ONE ANOTHER...**

So now...let's look at **vs. 1**

II. Restore The Fallen (Galatians 6:1)

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.

A. Anybody Can Get Caught (6:1a)

I want you to notice how Paul begins right here...he says "brothers"... Paul is talking to his family...

Paul is talking to brothers in Christ that he deeply loves.

So look at what Paul tells them...

Paul says..."**if ANYONE is CAUGHT in any sin**"....

This word "caught"...means someone who is **OVERTAKEN... AMBUSHED...or surprised by their sin...**

Like this isn't the picture of a person who sat down and planned out their sin....

This is a picture of a Christian who let their guard down...who flirted with a temptation that they thought they could handle...but then ended up getting overtaken in their sin.

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And notice, Paul is not excusing their sin...they are guilty...they need to repent....

But Paul is describing something we all know all too well....

Sometimes sin doesn't come kicking down the front door...but it sneaks in through an open window when you're not paying attention...

So what do we do when this occurs?

B. First, Restore Them...Don't Finish Them Off (6:1b)

First, Restore Them...Don't Finish Them Off

Paul says, “**restore him.**”

This means “put them in order” or “restore to their former condition”...

Some of you in this room enjoy cars that have been restored...

- They're like they were when they first came out...

Some of you in this room like to restore old furniture...

- You're taking all the cracks and damage that has occurred...and making that furniture like it was in its former condition....

That is the picture of what Paul is saying we should do here.... AND Restoration requires active involvement...

Like if you see a piece of furniture that is falling apart...

Or an older car that's falling apart...

It's never restored if you just stand by and do nothing...

In the same way...

When we see another brother or sister who is caught in sin....

We shouldn't just stand around and do nothing....

We shouldn't say:

- “Well, it's none of our business...”
- or “I just don't want to get involved”....

No!

We step in and step up to restore them!

Or even worse...

NEITHER do we see someone in their sin and say:

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- “served them right”....
- Or “let them lie in the bed they made”....

That is not serving one another in love!

NO! Paul says we are to RESTORE THEM!

TO Set them back on the right path!

Martin Luther put it this way:

We are to run to them...reaching out our hands...raising them up again...comforting them...and embracing them with motherly arms...

So we can ***RESTORE THEM!***

So first the goal is ***RESTORATION...***

C. Second, Who Should Do This? (6:1c)

Second, notice who Paul says should do this....

Those who are spiritual

Now who is that?

- This isn't just the mature believer in Christ
- This is the brother or sister who is walking in The Spirit...and not in the flesh.

Which means ANY believer...

So if you read this text this morning, and you say...:

- “Well that's not for me...”
- “That's for ***THE SPIRITUAL*** brothers or sisters...”
- That's not what this is saying...

All Christians have a responsibility in restoring a sinning brother or sister.

D. Finally, This Should Be Done Gently (6:1d)

Also notice ***HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE...***

Paul says that those who are spiritual...

Should restore another Christian trapped in sin...***IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS.***

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Now I want you to think back, to the fruit of The Spirit that we just saw in **Chapter 5, vs. 23....**one of the evidences of the fruit of The Spirit **IS GENTLENESS....**

So Paul is saying that the very fruit....that The Holy Spirit is growing inside of you...is not ***just for your own benefit***...but it's **ALSO** for the benefit of one another!

However...

Philip Ryken said this:

"If you can't do this gently, then we had better not do it at all".

So yes, this involves all of us, but for some of us...

You know it...when someone is caught in sin or trapped in sin...

You're just angry at them...

And you're not ready to restore them gently...

So you better pray that God brings some gentleness to your spirit, **OR** let a brother or sister who God has grown some gentleness in their lives...take this one.

BUT the goal is that **ALL** Christians would be involved in bringing restoration to other brothers and sisters in Christ...
WITH GENTLENESS!!!

In fact...

John MacArthur put it this way:

A Christian who is critical and judgmental as he attempts to help a fallen brother does not show the grace of Christ or help his brother, but instead stumbles himself.

In fact, that's exactly what Paul says next in the last part of **vs. 1**

E. Watch yourself (6:1e)

Paul says...***you keep a watch on yourself...because you too might be tempted and fall into a sin you weren't watching out for....***

See, if we go to another person without gentleness....when they have fallen into sin...often it's because we're walking with pride or anger in our own lives....

We don't see a brother or sister in sin and say:

- "Well, it serves them right!"
- Or I ***would never*** do something like that...

Because really what we're saying in that moment is...

- I think I'm somehow better than them...
- ***When the truth is we're all tempted with sin...and we're all sinners...***

So Paul says...watch yourself!

In other words...Paul is saying...***He fell...and you might fall too!***

Augustine, an early church father, said this:

"There is no sin any man has ever done, that another man could not do the same"...

So when we go to someone who has fallen to restore them...

- ***WE GO*** In Gentleness...
- ***WE GO with*** Humility
- ***AND WE GO in*** LOVE
- Recognizing that we too are just as prone to wander and sin as they are...

And we go to them with our hearts yearning that they might be restored to Love God greater than they love their sin!

Let's keep reading in ***vs. 2***

III. Bear One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:2)

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

A. God Never Meant For You To Carry It Alone (vs. 2a)

Paul continues in ***vs. 2***, with a ***practical way*** that we can, through love, serve one another.

How should Christians love one another?

- Well, ***FIRST*** through restoration,
- and ***SECOND....We bear one another's burdens...***

Remember, Paul was writing to the Galatians.

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The Galatians had come to faith when Paul shared The Gospel with them.

They had been freed in Christ.

But when Paul left, the Judaizers told The Galatian Christians that Christ alone was not enough for salvation...

- That they had to do this or do that...
- That they had to be burdened with the law...

So after being set free by the Gospel, they submitted themselves back to a yoke of slavery...**to the law**...

INSTEAD of walking in freedom in Christ

So Paul says...**hey, bear one another's burdens!**

And there is some irony going on here I want you to notice...

- The Galatians had become so fascinated with the idea of carrying the weight of the law....
- **Paul is essentially saying to them:**
 - You want something heavy to carry....?

I'll give you something heavy to carry...

GO CARRY EACH OTHER'S BURDENS!

You see what Paul is doing here?

- He's taking people who have submitted themselves back to the weight of the law...
- And he's redirecting them back to how they are **TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH LOVE!**

He's saying...instead of loading yourselves down with a law you can never keep...

- Instead...go help your brothers and sisters in Christ with what is weighing them down!
- Go pick up other Christians who are weighed down!

And there is an **assumption** in this verse.

- Paul doesn't say "**IF** you have burdens"...
- Paul says every single one of us **HAS BURDENS**...

And so Paul says clearly:

GOD NEVER MEANT FOR YOU TO CARRY YOUR BURDENS BY YOURSELF!

But some of us don't like that, do we?

Some of us think that it's a sign of **STRENGTH** not to bother anyone with our problems...just like I did with trying to move that piano...

- We think that a Christian should look like someone who keeps their problems to themselves
- Someone who pulls themselves up by their own bootstraps
- And keeps on keeping on.

The only problem with that is....that's not what Scripture says....

Psalm 55:22 tells us: *to cast our burdens on the Lord, and He will sustain us....*

And **1 Peter 5:7** tells us *to cast all our anxieties on God, because He cares for you...*

Like, yes and amen...cast your anxieties on The Lord...

BUT ALSO we have to understand that **ONE OF THE WAYS GOD CARES FOR YOU...ONE OF THE WAYS GOD SUSTAINS YOU....IS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE...THROUGH THE CHURCH!**

You may be like, okay, Pastor...where is the proof of that?

2 Corinthians 7:6

Paul is at the end of his rope....

- He's afflicted at every turn...
- He's fearful...
- His body is weary...

And how is he comforted?

2 Corinthians 7:6

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus

God comforted Paul...by sending someone to help bear his burdens...to help him carry the load...

- God didn't change the weight...
- God sent some more hands to help him carry it!

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See, sometimes God's answer to **YOUR** prayer...

- is **ANOTHER CHRISTIAN WHO MAY JUST HAPPEN TO BE SITTING IN THESE CHAIRS!**

AND sometimes God's answer, to others' people's prayers

- **MIGHT JUST BE YOU!**

Martin Luther said this means:

"Christians must have strong shoulders and mighty bones."

- Not so you can carry your OWN weight....
- But so you can help carry somebody ELSE'S!

Christians:

How do we serve one another through love?....

- By not letting one another walk alone....

God has given us the good gift of the church, so that we can **BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS...**

B. And This Is How You Fulfill The Law of Christ (vs. 2b)

But look at the second half of this verse....

...and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Paul's just spent this entire book telling us that the law can't save us...

- You can't earn your salvation by keeping a list of rules....

BUT NOW Paul turns around and says...**go fulfill the law of Christ!?**

Like, what does this mean?

Well, remember what we just saw about The Galatians....

- They **WANTED** a law...
- They **WANTED** something they could do...

So Paul is taking their desire for **SOMETHING THAT THEY CAN DO...**

- and redirecting it to what God **CALLS THEM TO DO...**
- to serve one another through love!

But what does Paul mean by this is the law of Christ?

Well, look back at what we read last week in **Chapter 5, vs. 14...**

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"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

See:

- **DOING THE LAW**...as a way of salvation...is impossible....
- **HOWEVER...FULFILLING THE LAW**...is what happens naturally when The Holy Spirit is at work inside of us...
- Giving us the ability to obey **THE LAW OF CHRIST...WHICH IS THE LAW OF LOVE!**

Jesus himself said in **John 13:34**:

"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."

And here's the thing:

***Loving one another like Christ loved us...usually does NOT look like some heroic, spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime act of sacrifice...
...Most of the time...it looks like just showing up for one another!***

- It looks like a casserole and a mowed yard...
- It looks like showing up for a broken brother or sister...
- It looks like sitting in a hospital waiting room when you'd rather be home.

John Stott put it like this:

When you see a woman, or a child, or an elderly person carrying a heavy case...don't you offer to carry it for them?

Then when you see somebody carrying a heavy burden on their HEART...

WHY WOULD YOU NOT COME ALONGSIDE THEM AND CARRY IT?

What does it look like to fulfill the law of Christ?

- Sometimes it just looks like showing up
- Being present
- Bearing one another's burdens

However, I do want to place a guardrail here...

And Charles Spurgeon voiced it better than I ever could...

Charles Spurgeon said there are people who look at a text like this and say:

"This text is a cow; I will milk it."

Instead of saying, **"This is a text that gives me something to do, and I will do it."**

Hey Christian:

The right question from vs. 2 IS NOT...

- **"WHO IS GOING TO HELP ME?"**

The right question is...

- **"WHERE IS THE PERSON THAT I AM SUPPOSED TO HELP?"**

- **I bear your burdens...AND you bear mine.**

- **You put up with me...and I put up with you.**

And THAT'S how we both fulfill the law of Christ.

Let's keep reading as we finish our text today in **vs. 3-5**

IV. But Carry Your Own Pack (Galatians 6:3-5)

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

4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

5 For each will have to bear his own load.

A. Pride Is What Stops You (vs. 3)

Paul says in **vs. 3**...if anyone thinks he is something when he's nothing, he deceives himself...

In other words, if you won't serve one another in love....by restoring people or helping bear one another's burdens...it's because you think you're above it...you think you're too good for it...

It's the lie that we tell ourselves that **we're too busy** or that **we're too good to help others**.

- We see others struggling and say I can't be bothered to bear someone else's burdens...I've got my own life going on...

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- Or we see someone else trapped in sin and we say...
 - “Well, serves them right”...
 - Or “Why would I stoop down and pick up somebody else’s mess?

We saw **vs. 26**; this is **How Christians SHOULD NOT Treat One Another....**when we’re conceited, or we’re envious....

But I want you to notice, vs. 3 says when we do this...

- **We’re DECEIVING OURSELVES...**
- Because the truth is...we’re walking in **PRIDE...**

C.S. Lewis called pride “**The Great Sin**”...and said this:

“If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed”.

In fact, **PRIDE** keeps us from doing **EVERY SINGLE THING** this text is asking us to do...

- When we walk in **PRIDE**, we won’t restore anyone
- When we walk in **PRIDE**, we won’t bear one another’s burdens
- AND when we walk in **PRIDE**, we **ARE** conceited, provoking, and envious.
- AND **ALSO** when we walk in **PRIDE...**
 - We won’t allow anyone to restore us or to help us bear our burdens...
 - Because we’ve **deceived** ourselves into thinking we can move that piano by ourselves and end up just dropping it on our foot... and getting hurt!

So what is the cure for our pride?...Look at **vs. 4**

B. Stop Comparing And Check Your Own Work (6:4)

4 But let each one test his own work...

Vs. 4 says...Check your own work!

This means that we quit playing the comparison game...

- Well, I’m better than this person over here
- Or, well, at least I didn’t do what that person did...

NO! We check our own work!!!

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This means...if you're over there thinking you're something...just look in the mirror...and see that **APART FROM CHRIST...ALL OF US ARE NOTHING!**

And, this is where the comparison game gets us....

- If we compare ourselves to someone weaker...
 - Then we become **PRIDEFUL...BOASTFUL**
- AND if we compare ourselves to someone else stronger...
 - we become **DISCOURAGED....**

Either way, we're using the wrong measuring stick!

The truth is, God doesn't measure us up against the person next to us...weaker or stronger...

God measures us against HIS OWN STANDARD!

And that means the man who got caught in a sin in **vs. 1...**

IS NOT OUR MEASURING STICK...

We don't get to feel better about ourselves because someone else got blindsided or trapped in a sin!

But we should examine our own lives...and recognize that if there be any good in us...then it is from the Lord!

That's what Paul is getting at but doesn't develop till **vs. 14...**where he says:

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Because if there be a reason for us to boast or rejoice in ourselves...It's only because of what God has done through us!

That we can look back on our lives and say, "Praise be to God"!

- I'm not who I was 30 years ago
- 20 years ago
- 10 years ago
- Last year...

All my boast is in Jesus...because Jesus is the one who has changed my life!

C. Because One Day You'll Stand There Alone (6:5)

Look at **vs. 5**....and this verse sounds like a contradiction...

It says...***each will have to bear his own load***...

When **vs. 2** just told us to ***bear one another's burdens***...

And now vs. 5 says each will have to bear his own load....

So which is it?

Well, in the original language...***BURDEN and LOAD are very different words***

- ***BURDEN*** means a heavy weight that's impossible to lift by yourself...that piano...
- ***LOAD*** means a person's pack...like a backpack that every soldier carries on their own.

So Paul is saying: Instead of scrutinizing your neighbor and comparing yourselves with them, you are to test your ***"OWN WORK,"*** for you will have to bear ***"YOUR OWN LOAD"***

So there is no contradiction here...

- There are burdens that are too heavy to carry alone...and God gives us the good gift of the church to help us carry them...
- But there is ***ONE PACK...on our shoulders*** that nobody can carry for you

What does this mean?

This means a day is coming... when each of us will have to bear our own pack...

- This is talking about the day that we stand before a Holy God...
- And we will have to take responsibility for the work that we have done...

So right now, we can help one another carry burdens that are too heavy to carry alone.

But ***ONE DAY*** when we stand before God ALONE, we cannot carry one another's packs...each will have to bear His own load.

And on that day when God says, why should I let you in Heaven?

- We won't be able to say, "Because of my parents' faith..."
- We won't be able to say, "Because of my good works..."

The only answer is...because of the grace of Jesus Christ!

And I just want to be honest....

This text can look disjointed...

- *like how did we get from restoration,*
- *to carrying others' burdens,*
- *to judgment day....*

But let me show you how it's all connected!:

Look at what we saw last week and this week...

We're called to FREEDOM...

- We don't use our FREEDOM as an opportunity for the flesh...
- We use our FREEDOM as an opportunity to serve one another through love...

SO instead of consuming one another...

- We love one another through restoring those in sin
- We love one another through carrying one another's burdens

So on the day we stand before God Almighty...

- We stand there because we've been set FREE IN CHRIST...by the Grace of God...
- ***And the evidence of the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS...***
 - I have been gentle in restoring other brothers
 - I have been faithful and kind in bearing others' burdens...
- ***So that they too...could then in return... would follow you faithfully...and love others...***

AND THOSE WORKS ARE NOT OUR PAYMENT INTO HEAVEN

- ***BUT THEY ARE EVIDENCE...of THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING INSIDE OF US!***

So Christian:

- Go restore somebody
- Go carry somebody's burdens
- Not SO YOU CAN STAND BEFORE GOD
- But BECAUSE HIS HOLY SPIRIT IS RULING YOUR LIFE!

Transition

That's what God's Word says and means today.

Now I want us to look at a few ways we can apply God's Word to our own lives.

Applications

1. Let's Be About Restoration

Far too often in the church...just like the world...we can have a **CANCEL CULTURE** mentality.

Somebody messes up...and we're done with them.

- We take them off the group texts...
- We stop inviting them to gatherings...
- And we move on like they were never here...

But hear me:

- Where **THE WORLD** doesn't have a method for dealing with sin.
 - Like they're just making it up as they go...changing the rules as they go...
- **THE CHURCH HAS THE METHOD FOR DEALING WITH SIN.**

AND Paul gave it to us in **vs.1 : RESTORE HIM...IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS.**

NOW, I do want to be incredibly clear:

RESTORATION DOES NOT MEAN THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES.

If a sin is ILLEGAL...we still abide by the laws of the land.

- So...if you commit a crime...you still do the time...
- And yes...there are certain sins...that will keep a person from serving in certain areas of this church...especially with minors...

But Church, that is not us canceling somebody.

- That's us abiding by the law of our land.

See...a person can be fully forgiven...fully restored to their church family...and still be sitting in a jail cell.

Those two things are not in conflict.

- ***But I want to be incredibly clear...*** We at Harvey are never going to sweep something under a rug and call that grace...

But now hear the other side.

Because as far as how we deal with sin...

WE WORK TOWARD GENTLE RESTORATION.

Like for the person who has been caught up in gossip...

- We don't ***throw that person away.***
- We ***WORK GENTLY toward restoration.***

Or for the person who lost it on another brother or sister in anger...

- We don't cancel them.
- ***WE WORK ON GENTLE RESTORATION.***

And this applies to the sin nobody wants to say out loud as well!

- Paul didn't say "***if anyone is caught in a SMALL transgression.***"
- He said ***IF ANYONE IS CAUGHT IN ANY TRANSGRESSION.***

WHY?

- BECAUSE WE ARE ALL SINNERS.
- WE HAVE ALL FALLEN IN SOME WAY.
- Every single one of us.

Therefore...***IN HUMILITY***...we have got to be about the work of forgiveness...and restoring people back to their former condition.

And here's WHY this matters so much for us as a body.

Paul wrote in ***Ephesians 4*** that God gave the church one another for a reason...

- To ***BUILD UP*** the body of Christ...
- Until we all reach ***MATURITY***...
- So that we would no longer be children...
- ***TOSSED BACK AND FORTH*** and ***BLOWN AROUND*** by every wind of doctrine.

You See...

A CHURCH THAT CANCELS PEOPLE INSTEAD OF RESTORING PEOPLE...NEVER GROWS UP.

- Because every time somebody falls...you just lose a limb...you lose a part of the body...

But a church that RESTORES people...

- That church gets **STRONGER** every single time somebody falls.
- Because now you've got a brother ***who knows what grace costs.***
- And a sister who's been picked up...so ***she knows how to pick somebody else up.***

So Church...

LET'S NOT BE ABOUT CANCELLATION.

LET'S BE ABOUT RESTORATION.

2. Pride Is A Battle We All Have To Fight

Church, as we've read through this text today...there is **ONE THING** that makes it impossible to obey God's Word here....

- PRIDE!

And pride is a battle that ALL of us have to fight.

Pride can keep you from helping somebody else.

- It causes us to *think we're something when we're nothing.*
- It causes us to look at the brother or sister who's fallen and think:
 - *"I'm not getting involved in that."*
 - *"That's beneath me."*
 - *"Why would I stoop down and pick up somebody else's mess?"*

Pride can also keep you from letting anybody help YOU.

- That's the pride that says:
 - *"I've got this."*
 - *"Nobody needs to know what I'm carrying."*
 - *"I'll fight my sin in private."*
 - *"I'll bear my burden alone."*
 - *"I'll carry this piano by myself"...*

See PRIDE...

Whether it keeps you from helping someone else or keeps you from letting anybody help you....BOTH ARE PRIDE

And here's the truth:

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Many times, in our pride, we are far more worried about **HOW WE APPEAR TO OTHER PEOPLE**...Than we are about actually **GROWING IN CHRIST**.

We're more concerned about looking like we've got it all together...

- Than we are about God's love actually transforming us.....
- Than we are about looking more like Jesus today than we did yesterday.

So we trade GROWTH IN CHRIST for "LOOKING GOOD" For Other People...

HEY TODAY:

- Don't be deceived in pride, into thinking you're SOMETHING apart from Christ.
- Don't be deceived in pride, into thinking you have to fight your sin alone.

CHURCH...LET'S FIGHT OUR PRIDE.

3. Let Christ Bear Your Pack

We talked about carrying things this morning....

- But then we saw in **vs. 5**, there's something nobody in this room can carry for you...**EACH WILL HAVE TO BEAR HIS OWN PACK...**

And I told you that's talking about the day you stand before God on judgment day...

And on that day...

- ***Each of us will have to give an account for OUR OWN works...***
- And none of us will be able to say on our own...I'm good...
- God, let me into your Heaven...because my pack is perfectly good and perfect...

Here is the truth:

GOD IS HOLY.

There is a God. He created everything you can see, touch, and feel. He is Holy, and there is none like Him. And because He is Holy, He cannot be associated with sin.

WE ARE SINNERS.

Galatians 6:1-5 | Restoration, Not Cancellation

Every single one of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. And that creates a problem...because our sin separates us from a Holy God, in this life and in the next. And no amount of rule-keeping can fix it. No amount of good works. That load is too heavy for us. We cannot carry it. And we cannot put it down.

BUT JESUS IS THE ANSWER.

Because HE is THE ONLY ONE who can carry it.

Isaiah 53 says this...

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities...and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:4-6)

- **HE BORE IT.**

- **HE CARRIED IT.**

- **The LORD laid on HIM...the iniquity of US ALL.**

See, God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth as a baby.

Jesus was fully God and fully man.

He lived a perfect, sinless life...He is the only man who ever walked this earth who was never once caught in a transgression...

And yet He went to the cross, and He picked up YOUR PACK and MY PACK, and He carried it up that hill.

But He didn't stay in that grave.

Three days later He rose from the grave, defeating sin and death.

YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN AND SAVED.

This means there is a risen Savior sitting at the right hand of God right now, pleading on our behalf.

So today...TODAY...you can have salvation!

Jesus got what He did not deserve, death on a cruel cross, so that we can get what we do not deserve...forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life with God.

So if you believe in Him...

- if you repent and turn from your sins...
- and if you follow Him...
- you WILL be forgiven,
- you WILL be saved,
- and you will be with God for all of eternity.

SO THIS MORNING...

Maybe you've been carrying that heavy pack your whole life.

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Galatians 6:1-5 | Restoration, Not Cancellation

Maybe you're weary and worn out...

Maybe you've been too proud to let anybody see how heavy it's gotten.

BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS....JESUS ALREADY CARRIED IT!

So you don't have to.

SO TODAY: Would you turn from your sin...

- Confess Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior...

And believe that He is WHO HE SAYS HE IS?

Don't leave this room the way you walked in.

Grab any member of this church...this week...any time...

And we would LOVE to show you what it means to hand your pack to JESUS CHRIST.

Big Idea

We Carry Each Other's Burdens Now, Because Christ Already Carried What We Could Never Carry

Church, I Love You.

Let's Pray.