



SERIES: GALATIANS

GALATIANS 6:1-6

February 8, 2010

Brothers, if anyone is caught in a transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

We are urged here to love our brothers and sisters in Christ by helping others escape the snare of sin. We are to do this in a spirit of love and gentleness, not judgment or criticism. There are some practical aspects to this as well:

Times to not intercede:

- You hardly know the individual and your confrontation will come across as judgmental
- When you struggle with the same sin they are
- If you look down on them in a prideful way (you are a sinner too!)
- Their sin is a minor offence than is out of character (as opposed to habitual sin)

Keeping watch on yourself:

- Make sure that you set up boundaries so that you will not be tempted by their sinful life
- Accountability is essential in this type of situation
- Be sure that you are "spiritual", meaning that you are a mature believer (be cautious, as we tend to think more highly of ourselves than we should)

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

Christ charged us to "love one another", which is the second-greatest commandment. One of the most important ways we can love each other is by helping a brother or sister out of sin. In doing so, we are helping them to bear their burdens.

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

Be careful not to have a "hero" mentality. Some well-meaning Christians will rush into a situation expecting to save someone from their sin. This will usually result in (1) stuffing their pride or (2) falling into sin as well. We need to remember the following when helping others out of sin:

1. We too are sinners and it is very easy for us to fall into temptation
2. We must remain humble and realize that only Jesus can truly pull people out of sin and restore them. We are simply there to *help*. The glory goes to God, not us.

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.



Each person should examine his life compared to Christ and not to others. If we compare ourselves to others, we will become prideful in thinking that we are smarter or better for not falling into the sin they fell into. Rather, we should look to Jesus and be humbled by his sinlessness and realize we are far from perfect. By doing so, our "boasting" will be in comparison to Christ and not our "neighbor".

5 For each will have to bear his own load.

This is not a contradiction to verse 2. Paul here (in verse 5) is declaring that each person will have to bear their own load on judgment day. Before God, our sin load will not become lighter by comparing ourselves to how bad other people were. Rather, the only measuring stick is Jesus and his perfection.

6 One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.

Often, it is the responsibility of the pastor to bear the burdens of others and help them out of sin. Thus, the teacher is entitled to compensation for his work. The New Testament declares in many places that churches are responsible for paying their pastors and making sure their needs are met, since they labor for the Lord.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do I stuff my pride by looking down on others?
2. Who do I know that I need to help out of sin? Am I qualified to do so?
3. Whose aid should I enlist when helping a brother or sister out of sin? (ex. pastor, parent, teacher etc.)