



"Restoration in a Legalistic Church"

Galatians 6:1-5

March 29, 2026

Gal 6:1-5

- 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.
- 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
- 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.
- 5 For each one will bear his own load.

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- Again, Paul affirms that the Galatians are believers.

"caught" - προλαμβάνω **prolambano** - be overtaken by, be surprised by.

"trespass" - παράπτωμα **paraptoma**- a slip, a stumbling, a falling;

- It is the picture of a trap that has surprised and ensnared a victim into a sin.
- What is the proper response of the church body? Point fingers, gossip about it, or condemn the person? No.

1.

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

4 characteristics of a proper response:

1. It must be done by those who are spiritual. i.e. those who are walking in the Spirit, led by the Spirit and thus displaying the fruit of the Spirit. These are ordinary believers who have been born again and are living the Christian life in the power of the Spirit. Any spiritual believer, regardless of what point they are at in their spiritual growth, can help a sinful believer.

1 Cor 2:14-3:1

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

Rom 7:18

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;

John 15:5

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 Cor 3:7

7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

2. It must be to restore, not condemn.

“restore” - καταρτιζω **katartizo** - to set a broken bone.

3. It must be done with gentleness, not harshness. Set the bone gently.

4. It must be done with humility, not pride. Not - “I would never do something like that.”

Matt 18:15-17

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Rom 15:1

1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

1 Thess 5:14

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

John 8:3-11

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"

6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court.

10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

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

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

4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

5 For each one will bear his own load.

“Nothing reveals the wickedness of legalism better than the way the legalists treat those who have sinned.”

-Warren Wiersbe

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

• Here is one of the “one another’s” found in the N.T. . . .

Fellowship

Love one another - 1 John 4:7

Build up one another - 1 Thess. 5:11

Live in peace with one another - 1 Thess. 5:13

Be devoted to one another - Rom. 12:11

Give preference to one another - Rom. 12:10

Be of the same mind toward one another - Rom. 12:16

Accept one another - Rom. 15:7

Admonish one another - Rom. 15:14

Greet one another - Rom. 16:16

Care for one another - 1 Cor. 12:25

Bear one another's burdens – Gal. 6:2

Serve one another - Gal. 5:13

Show tolerance toward one another - Eph. 4:2

Be kind to one another - Eph. 4:32

Bearing with one another - Col. 3:3

Forgive one another - Col. 3:3

Comfort one another - 1 Thess. 4:18

Encourage one another - 1 Thess. 5:11

Seek after that which is good for one another - 1 Thess. 5:15

Stimulate one another - Heb. 10:24

Confess your sins to one another - James 5:16

Pray for one another - James 5:16

Fervently love one another - 1 Peter 1:22

Be hospitable to one another - 1 Peter 4:9

Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another - 1 Peter 5:5

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

- Each person in the body of Christ is to take the trouble of helping other believers realize their sin and get it repaired.

John 13:34

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

- **The legalist doesn't bear burdens. He lays burdens on people.**

Matt 23:4

4 "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

"The legalist is always harder on other people than he is on himself. He's not interested in bearing burdens. His great mission is to lay them on people. But the Spirit-led Christian demands more of himself than he demands of other people."

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- A legalist is prone to look down his nose and say, "They deserve it." "She's so weak." "He just can't handle the pressure." "I saw it coming." "Maybe they'll listen to me next time." "I don't want to get involved." "I'm just glad it's them and not me." "I know I would never do something like that."

- The problem is personal pride.

- If you think you are too good to help a fallen believer, you are suffering from the worst deception of all –

SELF-DECEPTION

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"examine" - δοκιμάζω **dokimazo** - to approve after testing.

- The spiritual believer is to check out his own life first before helping another believer.

- If all is good, he can boast in the Lord for what God has done in his life to help another believer.

- We are not to compare ourselves with a fallen believer and therefore boast in himself.

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am,

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• Every believer carries his own responsibilities in life which he will give an account for when he stands before Christ.

2 Cor 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Worthless –

1. Walking in the flesh.
2. Harsh spirit.
3. Full of pride.
4. Arrogance.
5. Boasting in self.

Application

1. Legalism destroys restoration.
2. Helping other believers who have fallen into sin, is not an option, it is our responsibility.
3. If you are not spiritual, become spiritual (walk in the Spirit), so you can help others.
4. In humility, pick-up those who have fallen and be there for them, lest they fall again.
5. Live your life, including restoring the fallen, knowing your worthy acts will some day be rewarded.