

## **PP The Heart of a Family**

### **Part 7 Helping One Another, Galatians 6:1-5**

2/19-20/2022

Can you imagine being in a church where the hopeless are encouraged, the lowly honored, the sinner forgiven, the needy served, the undeserving loved, and the weary are helped? Let's think about the weary for a moment, for they are the subject of today's message. Have you ever been burdened, bowed down, exhausted in the Christian life? Haven't you ever tasted the despair of seeing your own sin, and unable to conquer it? Many in the church have, and the help for them is given to us today, so let's look at closely. We are about to see what we are to do for each other, and how we can do it effectively.

### **PP 1-What we are to do for each other in the Church**

From the very first word in this passage, we are confronted with a beautiful yet sobering reality:  
*The Church is a Family... 'Brothers'*

We are family, siblings, and children together of the Heavenly Father. Which is why we are to learn to have the heart of a family in our church, to be for each other. There is a Proverb that says, **PP** *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."* Proverbs 17:17

One explanation of this verse is sibling rivalry, while the other view is that Solomon is saying that siblings are there for each other when adversity comes. Interestingly both views are in Galatians and Paul applies both to those of us in the church. Many commentators believe that those who organized the bible should have started chapter 6 with 5:26, *"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."*

That is the rivalry view of brothers in the family and Paul is warning us against that. But the second view is 6:1, *'Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.'*

Brothers are born for adversity, when you are down, when you have fallen, and move in mercy toward sinners, and that leads us to our second point,

**PP** The word *'transgression'* here does not mean a deliberate, pedal to the metal, *I'm going for it and no one is stopping me* kind of sinning, but the sin of one foolishly tempted and who steps his foot in a trap and it snares him.

While all sin does injury to our souls, not all sins are created equal, which is why there were different sacrifices offered in the Old Testament.

This is not the sin of going to the bar with the goal of hooking up, or doctoring the books to cheat on your taxes, both pre-meditated.

It's the sin of walking along in your Christian life, and stumbling, having dropped your guard.

It is the sin of one who foolishly got into great debt in an unwise business decision.

Or the sin of one who loses her temper in a moment of stress and damages a relationship.

What are we to do for each other when we slip up and sin?

We *'who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.'* 6:1

That word **PP** *'restore'* means to restore to its former condition and was used by ancient doctors to reset a broken bone, and of course you would want that doctor to have a *'gentleness'*.

as he did this

The picture is clear for us, someone in our church trips up and sins, well who is going to be better at resetting that person than one who is spiritual, Spirit-filled, understanding the power of the gospel, being filled with the *gentleness* that the Spirit produces in us?

**PP** *'gentleness'*, a word for a soothing wind, a healing medicine, it just makes people feel better. It is when someone in the church stumbles, and sins, and Spirit-filled brothers and sisters come alongside in gentleness, not judgment, not wrath, not criticism, and reset and heal

**PP** Martin Luther said it this way, *'Run unto him, and reaching out your hand, raise him up again, comfort him with sweet words, and embrace him with motherly arms.'*

*'Keep watch on yourself'*, even the mature in Christ can stumble, and being in the position of the one who corrects, confronts and restores can easily lead to pride

Counter this by constantly examining your own heart, asking God to reveal them clearly to you

### **PP 3-How can we help each other well?**

I used to own a Honda 1800 VTX motorcycle, and one day I was riding it and it just began sputtering, cutting out, losing power

I limped it home and of course went to Google, and discovered that it was simply a loose battery wire lug that was intermittently losing contact with the battery every time I hit a bump

If we are to help each other well in the church, then we need to make sure we help each tighten up our contact with the truth and power of the gospel

As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He will produce the life of Christ in us so we can ***"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*** 6:2

Pastor Kyle showed a couple weeks ago that **Galatians 5:14** tells us what the law of Christ is:

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

But to understand what *'burdens'* we are bear, we need to get a better understanding of Galatians. Paul opened the letter in **Galatians 1:6** writing, ***"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him Who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel"***

They were adding into the gospel which Paul restated for them in **Galatians 2:16**, ***"we know that a person is not justified (made right with God) by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."***

The moment someone believes that forgiveness is possible only through the death and resurrection of Jesus, that person is saved and immediately united to Christ

The result is that the sinner now made right with God has the power to live right

We must really grasp and live in the knowledge of what I am about to show you

One person said that 90% of all professing Christians live their life based on this formula:

**PP** Believe...Obey...Saved

While I have no idea if that percentage is correct, there are many religious people I talk with that live life based on that formula

The news reported this past week that an Arizona Priest incorrectly performed the baptisms of thousands of worshipers by saying *"We baptize you in the name of the Father and of the*

*Son and of the Holy Spirit" instead of their correct formula of 'I baptize you...'*  
 The Phoenix Diocese has rendered invalid all those baptisms, but the most glaring, terrible thing he said is this, *'Baptism is a requirement for salvation'*  
 You see the formula that is no gospel is Believe...Obey...Saved  
 Or in other words it is Jesus plus your effort, your good works that saves you  
**PP** The True Gospel is Believe...Saved...Obey  
 We believe on Jesus, He justifies us, making us right with His Father, saving us, giving us the power to obey and fulfill the Law of Christ  
 When a sinner is united to Christ in faith, her battery wire lugs are firmly connected to the battery of the life of Christ which the Apostle Paul explained, **PP** ***"For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me."** Colossians 1:29*

Here is the problem that Galatians addresses: a group of influential members of that church were teaching that yes, you must believe in Jesus but you also must keep the Old Testament ceremonial laws in order to be saved  
 Friends, the devil is always trying to get Christians and churches to stray away from the gospel  
 When we do, the wire comes loose, and we sputter our way powerlessly through life  
 This book is all about reconnecting to the only source of power there is: ***"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."** Galatians 2:20*  
 Look what Jesus has done for us!: ***"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."** Galatians 5:1*  
 We are told what we are free from: ***"Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed."** Galatians 3:23*  
 The Law's purpose was never to give salvation to anyone who tried to keep it, for no one ever could keep it perfectly  
 That was its imprisoning power...to take captive a person until they realized they were in need of a salvation they could not earn, only given by the only One Who ever earned it by keeping the entire law  
 Until someone realizes that Believe...Obey...Saved is actually contrary to the gospel, will they turn to Jesus and Believe...Saved...Obey  
 Jesus did what no other person could do, obeyed the Law of God perfectly, and died a worthy death in the place of any sinner who would believe in Him

Friends, are you beginning to see now, to ***'Bear one another's burdens'***  
 There are all kinds of burdens in life we help each other with, like grief, loss, anxiety, failure, loneliness, depression and many more  
 These can become so heavy that we must help each other carry them  
 But the reason why, and the way we love as we do, must keep the gospel in mind  
 We bear, pick up, should a person's burden so that we can help them go to Christ for help  
 We are not the solution, so Paul reminds us, ***"For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."** 6:3*  
 Our task fellow Christian is to constantly be leading people to Jesus, even if those people are already saved, but they have wandered away from the gospel  
 Yet you will discover the law of burden bearing...you can help, but in the end, that person must be willing to go to Jesus on his or her choice: ***"But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will***

***have to bear his own load.” 6:4-5***

Otherwise you can bear a person's burden to the point where that person views you as their Savior and help, and not Jesus

I'll tie it together in an old hymn, *Lay Your Deadly Doings Down*, sung by Ira Sankey, long time associate of DL Moody?

**PP** (Put the lyrics on a slide or two) *Nothing, either great or small-Nothing, sinner, no; Jesus died and paid it all, Long, long ago.*

*'It is finished!' yes, indeed, Finished, ev'ry jot; Sinner, this is all you need, Tell me, is it not? When He, from His lofty throne, Stooped to do and die, Ev'rything was fully done; Hearken to His cry!*

*Weary, working, burdened one, Wherefore toil you so? Cease your doing; all was done Long, long ago.*

*Till to Jesus' work you cling By a simple faith, 'Doing' is a deadly thing- 'Doing' ends in death. Cast your deadly 'doing' down-Down at Jesus' feet; Stand in Him, in Him alone, Gloriously complete.*

Pray